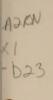
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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

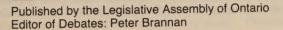


First Session, 33rd Parliament Tuesday, June 4, 1985

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC





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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, June 4, 1985

The First Session of the 33rd Parliament of the province of Ontario opened at 3 p.m. for the dispatch of business pursuant to a proclamation of the Honourable J. B. Aird, Lieutenant Governor of the province.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, having entered the chamber, took his seat upon

the throne.

Hon. Mr. Aird: Pray be seated.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am commanded by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to state that he does not see fit to declare the causes of the summoning of the present Legislature of this province until a Speaker of this House shall have been chosen according to law; but today, at a subsequent hour, His Honour will declare the causes of the calling of this Legislature.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Clerk of the House: Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is my duty to call upon you to elect one of your number to preside over your deliberations as Speaker.

Hon. F. S. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Peterson, that the member for the electoral district of Perth (Mr. Edighoffer) be the Speaker of this House.

Clerk of the House: Are there any further nominations? There being only one nomination, I declare the nominations closed and the Honourable Hugh Alden Edighoffer to be Speaker of this House.

Mr. Speaker entered the chamber and took the chair.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable members, mesdames and monsieurs, before I take this chair I want to express my sense of deep gratitude for the trust this House has put in me. I am grateful to you, Mr. Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller), and to the leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition (Mr. Peterson), for moving and seconding my nomination, and to all honourable members for their support.

From 1977 to 1981, I had the privilege of serving this House as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of committees of the whole House. During that time of service I became very aware

that the office of Speaker is an essential feature of the parliamentary system. This office represents in a very real sense the right of freedom of speech in parliament, and one of the hallmarks of this office is the requirement for a high degree of impartiality in the execution of the duties.

3:10 p.m.

As your Speaker, I pledge to be mindful of the rights of every member to express his or her views and to be heard. Some of you may be aware that I have a much larger gavel in my office, and I hope it will not have to be brought into use.

It is my understanding that a Deputy Speaker and a Deputy Chairman will be elected at a later time, and I look forward to working with the members whom you choose.

In this chamber of debate, as well as in the precincts of the House, members can effectively discharge their public duties only if their rights and privileges are safeguarded in an orderly manner. I promise that I shall put forth every effort to fulfil the duties that you have entrusted to me. I will do my best to serve in a fair, impartial but firm manner.

The House will now adjourn during pleasure.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor reentered the chamber and took his seat upon the
throne.

Hon. Mr. Aird: Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly have elected me as their Speaker, though I am little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me. If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me and not to the assembly whose servant I am and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and country, hereby claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to your person at all reasonable times and that their proceedings may receive from you the most favourable consideration.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to declare to you that he freely confides

in the duty and attachment of the assembly to Her Majesty's person and government, and, not doubting that the proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temperance and prudence, he grants and upon all occasions will recognize and allow the constitutional privileges. I am commanded also to assure you that the assembly shall have ready access to His Honour upon all suitable occasions and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to open the session with the following gracious speech.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Hon. Mr. Aird: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to welcome you to the first session of the 33rd Parliament of Ontario, and especially so to those honourable members who will be serving their fellow citizens in this assembly for the first time.

Before proceeding, I want to express on behalf of all honourable members this assembly's sincere condolences to those families who have lost loved ones and friends in last Friday's devastating storm. In co-operation with municipalities and the federal government, my government wants to assure you that a comprehensive program is being implemented to help all those who have been adversely affected and to rebuild those industries and communities that have been so severely damaged.

In the agenda my ministers will place before you, my government is determined to express and honour the mandate for renewal and social progress this assembly has been assigned by the people of Ontario. This is an ambitious assignment and that is appropriate. Our economy is blessed with great potential and our citizens are industrious and have generous aspirations for themselves and for their communities. Through the co-operation and mutual respect of all honourable members of this assembly, this session can make a lasting contribution.

Since government's overriding responsibility is to help individuals achieve a better quality of life for themselves, it is not government's role to make choices for people or try to build Ontario on its own. My government, however, will assume its responsibilities for leadership on those concerns that require effective action in our public institutions.

In this address and in the budget of the Treasurer (Miss Stephenson) on June 25, my government will place before you for the people

of Ontario new initiatives and directions to strengthen the climate for private sector employment and economic growth across our province; to eliminate barriers and assist all individuals, particularly women, young people, visible minorities, native people and the disabled, who seek employment and who pursue excellence; to protect our environment and enhance our diverse regional economies; to maintain and expand our investment in essential social services; to introduce and amend laws which serve our community values; and to encourage co-operation and trust by improving the openness and accountability of all our public institutions.

Honourable members, in this address my government will pursue these objectives with more than 90 initiatives ranging from new laws for your consideration to wide-ranging measures affecting all aspects of our vibrant province. Many will require a significant investment of public resources and wise deliberation by this assembly. They will be responsible, as well as responsive, because they will be undertaken within a fiscal policy of rigorous spending control and steady reduction in our deficit.

Securing economic opportunity: 10 years ago Ontario recognized the need to restrain untenable growth in the public sector in order to protect resources for economic and personal initiative. Consequently, the burden of government spending and our deficit is the lowest per capita in Canada. This has been and is essential, but it is not an end in itself. Higher employment growth must remain as the unifying objective of economic policy.

Our programs and our partnership with the private sector ensured that Ontario led the rest of Canada in job creation. With real growth of six per cent in 1984, our economy created 147,000 new jobs. With the positive measures my government will propose in this address and in the budget, my government believes that, with a confident private sector where the entrepreneur knows where government is going and the stable principles it serves, Ontario can and should create 200,000 new jobs this year.

There is no reason to neglect or set aside our responsibilities in encouraging significant and more equitable employment growth. While the unemployment rate declined by more than one percentage point last year, it is still too high, particularly for women and young people. If we agree that we can do better this year, we must intensify our own efforts and represent vigorously legitimate Ontario interests regarding basic policy choices by the government of Canada.

3:20 p.m.

In meeting its responsibilities, my government will work to ensure that national trade and fiscal policies intelligently and pragmatically serve the nationwide employment goals shared in this assembly.

It must be clearly understood that social programs cannot substitute for economic policies that pursue sustainable, competitive growth. Social advance without a strong economy would be a cruel illusion.

Canadians see it as our duty to improve the environment for growth in the economy, not growth in our governments, and also to borrow only for capital investments necessary for our future, not for day-to-day operations. Thus, my ministers remain determined not to take up the new growth in the economy with major tax increases.

Ontario's leadership as a trading economy in sophisticated manufacturing, services and resources belies the stubborn myth of Ontario protectionism. In fact, on a per capita basis Ontarians earn more from and depend more on exports than do the people of Japan. A million jobs in Ontario depend on trade. Nevertheless, Ontarians share the commonsense view of their trading partners. Trade policy ultimately must serve the national interest, not abstract theory.

Our automotive industry is playing a major role in driving Ontario's employment expansion. Our automotive parts investment fund, in its first year, has been energetically and responsibly employed by our private firms. The original and essential intent of placing voluntary quotas on Japanese vehicle imports was to encourage adequate investment in the Canadian automotive industry. This has not yet been effectively accomplished.

While the United States government may be satisfied with the response of Japanese firms in the United States, we have much further to go. Thus, there does not exist a parallel case in Canada for removing this critical incentive at this time. Our government will insist that the government of Canada not back off on these quotas before the Japanese auto firms demonstrate significantly more willingness to invest in Canada.

My government strongly supports the priority the government of Canada has placed on improving trade relations with the United States. However, our people know we cannot rely on the United States alone and realize that multilateral trade expansion is equally critical to our prosperity. My government and this assembly are increasingly concerned about the proposition that there is now a window of opportunity to negotiate bilateral free trade with the United States.

Well before we consider timing and tactics, it is Canada's obligation to research and explore publicly the fundamentals: what both sides of the negotiation would require, the problems which might ensue for working people and many of our industries, as well as the opportunities that might be made available. The Canadian national interest must be defined in public, in Canada, and not at the negotiating table.

My government will propose to the Legislature the establishment of a committee on finance and economic affairs. Consistent with our long-standing commitment to perform a constructive role in Canada, and because of the importance of an informed consensus on national trade, as a first order of business, we will request that this committee address the issue of trade objectives for our economy. In addition, as suggested at a recent conference by the Ontario Economic Council, my government will appoint a distinguished and experienced trade adviser to assist both the Legislature and the government in defining our strategic and negotiating interests in this vital national debate.

Hard experience teaches that modern economies do not and will not grow naturally to acceptable levels of employment. Purposeful government action is required. Furthermore, it is well appreciated across our society that governments must undertake this task in partnership with ambitious individuals and enterprises. Good and sensitive government means serving, not substituting for, the creative energies of the private sector.

Also, there is general agreement that our efforts should be directed primarily towards progressive small and medium-sized Canadian enterprises. Not only do they generate the lion's share of new jobs, there is a social reality that should not be overlooked. We want economic growth because we want to improve the quality of life in Ontario. These enterprises are making that contribution by building self-reliance in our communities and providing the individual with a unique opportunity for self-expression and accomplishment.

Consequently, along with new measures in this address to stimulate training and job creation, the budget will propose to the Legislature further employment incentives by reducing the tax burden on growing small enterprises. My government believes the most effective way to create genuine new jobs is to allow successful

small companies to put their earnings back to work. Our interest is not to stimulate the bottom line or dividends, but to strengthen the collective wellbeing of the firm and its employees.

If industries are to secure greater resources for modernization from government, they in turn must accept public interest in whether their employees are provided with reasonable opportunity for secure employment. Consequently, a major feature of my government's enterprise technology fund, which will be introduced in the budget, will be the advance requirement that firms which seek its assistance present appropriate training and retraining plans for their employees along with their proposals to upgrade technologies and equipment.

Last year my government introduced a threeyear, \$600-million employment, experience and training commitment to enrich opportunities throughout our society, particularly for young people, women, the disadvantaged and older workers. These programs contributed directly and significantly to last year's substantially improved job creation performance. Also, they made it possible for 108,000 Ontarians to participate in training and upgrading so critical to their development and our collective wellbeing.

My government is gratified by the growing number of firms and individuals making use of these programs and will carry forward its funding commitment to the Ontario skills fund and Ontario youth opportunities. These initiatives have been consolidated in the new Ministry of Skills Development.

In the light of strong growth in the economy, my government has the capacity to build on the success of these programs. Since the need is great and the private sector has demonstrated it will provide greater opportunities, it is our intention to include in the budget an additional \$100-million employment and training supplement that will permit the new Ministry of Skills Development to take further action in four key areas.

First, a further 75,000 training and upgrading opportunities will be provided in our public institutions and in industry. Second, a further 30,000 work experience opportunities will be secured primarily for high school graduates. Third, co-operative education and links to the private sector will be expanded in our secondary schools. Fourth, a \$10-million training access fund will be set up to meet both the urgent need to create more extensive training programs in industry and to reduce those practical barriers such as child care, transportation and accommodation

costs which discourage many energetic people from improving their work skills.

To assure more equitable access to training, this financial assistance will be provided according to the circumstances of the individual. This last initiative is in addition to the 7,500 subsidized child care spaces and other child care programs recently announced by my government.

The people of Ontario look to us to ensure that economic benefits are shared fairly and that our laws keep up with changing realities in the work place. My government will reaffirm its commitment to working people by introducing 11 major reforms to enhance security and justice at work.

Lack of equality for women in the work place, caused by institutional barriers or outdated attitudes, makes no sense and is not fair. My government, in its own activities and in its relationship with the private sector, will take further action necessary for our economic and social advancement.

Employment equity programs will be extended in our public sector to crown agencies and transfer payment recipients, including hospitals, municipalities, school boards and post-secondary institutions. Employment and training services for special needs groups, including women, minorities and the disabled, will be consolidated in the new Ministry of Skills Development.

3:30 p.m.

Compensation equity for women in the work force will be pursued on several fronts. First, my government proposes to appoint a compensation equity commission representing business, labour and government to address the elimination of pay inequities for women. Immediately, the commission will assist my government to implement equal pay for work of equal value in the Ontario public service and in crown corporations and the broader public sector, commencing March 31, 1986. My government will also adopt a policy of contract preference for contractors of goods and services of over \$200,000 per year who already have implemented, or undertake to implement, an effective employment equity program for women, visible minorities, native people and the disadvantaged.

My government made a historic contribution in securing the Charter of Rights for Canadians. It will act vigorously to enforce and extend accepted and concrete principles of equality across our jurisdiction. Anything less than equal pay for equal work constitutes clear discrimination and is already illegal. My government

believes that it would be premature for the state and its officials to define "value" in the work place, particularly of small and medium-sized firms, without far more information and broader public understanding. Consequently, the compensation equity commission will also be asked to encourage wide public discussion and to advise my government on the appropriate application of the concept of equal pay for work of equal value in the private sector.

Amendments will be introduced to enhance collective bargaining rights. A procedure will be proposed to enable first agreement arbitration to be requested when the normal processes of negotiation, conciliation and mediation have failed to produce a collective agreement following the acquisition of bargaining rights.

To protect unorganized workers, my government proposes to amend the Employment Standards Act to give all employees with three or more years of service the right to contest an unjust dismissal before an impartial tribunal. As is now the case in our public service, an amendment will be introduced to enable part-time workers to elect to receive employment benefits on a prorated basis.

Furthermore, greater protection and participation for workers affected by significant technological change will be assured by amending the Labour Relations Act to require advance notice and consultation.

To address health hazards posed by toxic substances in the work place, right-to-know legislation will be prepared to require employers to identify toxic substances in the work place and to explain their potential hazard. My government will continue to protect workers against dismissal for reporting occupational hazards in the work place.

In the second phase of its comprehensive review of the Workers' Compensation Act, my government will bring forward recommendations to provide compensation for permanent disabilities, pensions, adjustment and reinstatement rights for injured workers.

Based upon a consensus with other senior governments, a pension benefits act will be introduced in this session. Reforms will include vesting of pensions, assured pension portability, minimum employer contributions, improved survivor benefits both before and after retirement, the extension of private pension coverage to part-time workers and the removal of sex discrimination in the calculation of pension benefits. Ontario will also initiate further discussions with other governments and the private sector on

fair and acceptable methods to ensure that retired members of pension plans receive regular inflation protection.

Building on our heritage: The diversity and abundance of our natural resources are vital to our communities, our economic security and our future quality of life. The responsible management of our natural environment and the development of our regions, farm lands, forests, mines, tourist and recreation resources is a public trust for our immediate wellbeing and for future generations. Across these responsibilities, my government proposes over 25 initiatives for this session of the Legislature.

Our province has in place the most extensive and rigorous environmental laws of all the industrial jurisdictions in North America. This has been accomplished because this assembly represents a community that cares deeply about its natural environment. To honour this obligation to our province and our children, my government will propose to this assembly a series of initiatives that will extend Ontario's leadership.

My government proposes to have the draft regulations, particularly regarding certain absolute liability features, of the part IX amendment of the Environmental Protection Act sent immediately to the standing committee on resources development with a view to proclaiming the amendment on January 1, 1986. This will ensure vigorous public protection for spills of dangerous substances and compensation to those affected by those responsible.

Also, to protect the public interest in the transportation of dangerous materials, my government will immediately proclaim amendments to the Environmental Protection Act which will impose stricter conditions on industry to ensure the safe storage, transportation and disposal of dangerous industrial wastes. In co-ordination with the federal government initiative, my government will proclaim the Ontario Dangerous Goods Transportation Act.

To strengthen the effectiveness of Ontario environmental regulations, a new investigations and enforcement branch will be set up and maximum and minimum fines for environmental offences will be increased.

Our efforts to reduce acid rain will be intensified both in co-operation with other governments and where we have direct responsibility. While we all recognize that most acidic precipitation is generated from beyond our borders and that we must be forceful with our neighbours to reduce this menace to Ontario, my government is

determined to extend its leadership in addressing this problem in our own jurisdiction. My government proposes to amend control orders to ensure that Ontario Hydro and Inco accelerate their emission reduction programs and install modern acid rain reduction technology. In addition, the Ministry of the Environment will introduce a lake restoration program to rehabilitate seriously acid-damaged lakes.

In order to accelerate the cleanup of Ontario beaches and tributaries, the Ministry of the Environment will set up a \$20-million beach protection fund. Also, a shoreline protection task force will be created. My government will continue to impress upon appropriate American governments their responsibilities regarding potentially unacceptable pollution levels in the Niagara River. My government is already committed to take further action before the courts, if necessary.

After completing a comprehensive review of waste management practices initiated in 1982, my government has decided to establish a \$100-million environmental protection fund to clean up waste sites and provide stronger enforcement of our environmental regulations. In order to finance equitably this expensive and essential undertaking, the Ministry of Treasury and Economics is designing, for introduction at the federal and provincial level, a special tax on dangerous toxic substances. This would also help discourage needless and excessive use of these commodities.

I am pleased to advise this Legislature that my government will soon formally proclaim the Niagara Escarpment plan. This undertaking will be of immense value to the province and provides a worldwide example of co-operative and responsible management of our environmental heritage.

My government will undertake innovative forestry initiatives under our tending Ontario's forests program. This \$10-million program will enhance the \$150-million commitment already in place for our forest management programs. It will benefit our communities and, equally important, will generate substantial job opportunities for students and young people in areas of high unemployment.

To protect the resources and environment which are necessary to the development of Ontario's tourism industry, my government will create a \$10-million special resource fund to support fish restocking, community programs, research into improved fish and wildlife habitat and management techniques for lakes and for-

ests. In addition, a new tourism development board will be established to focus more aggressively my government's assistance to our vital tourist industry.

The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation will also intensify its efforts to attract tourists from Quebec and the United States, which will have immediate benefits for employment growth and development, particularly in eastern Ontario. Recognizing the increasing value and need for wider public access to public recreation facilities, our existing public investment in such facilities will be enhanced by the creation of a \$15-million recreation capital construction program. Lottery revenues will be used to fund this program.

My government is committed to remain an active partner in securing greater prosperity and economic diversity for northern and eastern Ontario.

3:40 p.m.

To that end, we propose to improve the very successful Nordev program in northern Ontario and double its funding to \$20 million. We invite the federal government, which shares with us the responsibility for regional economic development, to cost share this initiative as it has with previous initiatives in northern Ontario and elsewhere in Canada. In addition to the increased funding, and subject to negotiations with Ottawa, the program will be broadened to include assistance to small capital projects in the tourism industry and other service sector industries. Many small enterprises would then be better able to expand their employment and facilities.

The government will also renew its commitment to economic development in eastern Ontario by entering negotiations with the federal government for a program to replace the successful eastern Ontario subsidiary agreement, which will expire in September of this year. Ontario proposes a \$40-million, five-year, cost-shared program to extend the many successful components of EOSA. The new program will provide assistance for agricultural development, small business, tourism and forestry.

To enhance development in regions which are experiencing high unemployment, my government will accelerate northern and rural road construction and maintenance and will carry forward, in the budget, last year's successful community economic transformation agreement program.

Improved access to venture capital in all our regions must be a priority if economic opportunity is to be shared fairly across Ontario. In this

regard, the budget will increase the regional funds of the small business development corporations program and will broaden eligibility for SBDC investments in northern Ontario. As we have recommended, my government is pleased that the government of Canada has decided to permit registered retirement savings plan and private pension funds to invest in small and medium-sized, Canadian-controlled firms. In addition to these measures, our task force review of financial institutions in Ontario will be directed on a priority basis to consider how our private lending institutions can better serve growing enterprises in all of our regions.

In order to assist our vital agriculture industries face their immediate difficulties and seize new opportunities, all governments have a responsibility to improve access to credit and to better stabilize farm incomes.

For its part, my government is setting up a farm operating credit assistance program. A fund of \$40 million over three years will reduce the cost of credit and provide necessary loan guarantees. Ontario has played a vigorous role in attempting to design a tripartite stabilization program for the red meat sector. We believe the federal government should also be able to contribute this year. However, my government has allocated \$15 million for a bipartite program with the industry if we must proceed on our own. Furthermore, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food will carry forward with its new crop development fund to encourage our farmers to take advantage of emerging market opportunities.

Building on our efforts to conserve vital agricultural lands, the soil conservation and erosion program will be extended to assist municipalities in constructing and repairing agricultural outlet drains. To assist women and young people in rural areas find training and employment opportunities in their own communities, new resources will be dedicated to a rural employment assistance program.

Our ability, along with our obligation, to set new directions and serve fundamental community values requires steady attention to the basic essentials people pay for through modern government. In this session, my government will propose a wide-ranging and historically significant program of more than 25 reforms and initiatives in education, in health, in support for the elderly, in the protection of tenants and in building our transportation system. You will have the opportunity to advance and represent

our society's commitment to fairness, compassion and excellence.

My government will introduce for debate, open public discussion and resolution, legislation necessary to extend public funding for secondary Roman Catholic schools beyond grade 10. We are not proposing to create a new public institution but to support equitably a school system which has been an integral component of public education in Ontario ever since Canada was founded.

This is a major and complex undertaking. Therefore, my government is committed to provide full public participation, without arbitrary time constraint, for all those who wish to express their views on this legislation.

My government remains confident that the first phase of this reform can proceed this September and is gratified by the progress of the planning and implementation commission. The commissioners have already forwarded to my government 30 implementation plans for Roman Catholic school boards, according to the principles outlined by Premier William G. Davis on June 12, 1984. Despite uncertainties which accompany any significant reform, this assembly can be assured, in legislation and in administration, that capital facilities will be responsibly managed, that non-Roman Catholic teachers will have fair access to employment and tenure in Roman Catholic schools and that this extension of funding will not in any way be financed by undermining our commitment to public schools generally.

My government guarantees that adequate funding of our excellent public school system will be maintained. With the assistance of its commission of inquiry into the financing of elementary and secondary education in Ontario, my government will take all necessary new measures to assure excellent curriculum and teaching in this basic system. This will not be borne by the property tax. Indeed, my government will gradually increase, through general legislative grants, the province's share of public school financing.

While my government does not accept the recommendation of the Bovey report regarding tuition fees, it recognizes that additional resources are required to enhance the quality and vitality of post-secondary education. Accordingly, my government will establish a \$100-million quality education fund. Working with our colleges and universities, it will be used to stimulate research, renew capital and equipment, upgrade critical

programs and improve staff and academic development.

Mon gouvernement continue de croire qu'un accroissement et un élargissement soutenus des droits linguistiques et des services en français sont préférables à toute mesure qui ferait de l'Ontario une province officiellement bilingue. Au cours de cette session, nous déposerons de nouveau des amendements à la Loi sur l'éducation en ce qui a trait à la gestion des écoles de langue minoritaire. Ces amendements détermineront les conditions dans lesquelles les conseils scolaires pourront compter des conseillers de langue minoritaire élus par des électeurs de langue minoritaire. Les services de santé offerts en français seront élargis. L'office des affaires francophones fera partie intégrante du bureau du Conseil des ministres.

My government continues to believe that a steady upgrading and expansion of French language rights and services is preferable to any move which would make Ontario officially bilingual. In this session, we will reintroduce amendments to the Education Act dealing with the governance of minority-language schools. This will determine the conditions under which school boards can set up minority-language trustees elected by the minority-language voters. Health services available in the French language will be extended. The office of francophone affairs will be made an integral part of our Cabinet Office.

This parliament has inherited the responsibility to sustain what is widely regarded as the finest health care system in the world. It is my government's obligation to maintain health care quality and universality by continuing review and new initiatives. Extensive changes are called for during this session.

First, as part of tax reform, to ensure more equitable health care financing, my government will freeze Ontario health insurance plan premiums and steadily raise premium assistance. My government will progressively employ tax sources less onerous to low-income families in order to finance this essential service.

In order to make sure residents in northern Ontario receive equal health care benefits, my government will provide incentives to increase specialist services in the north and will proceed with its program to subsidize significant transportation costs for those requiring hospital care. Further, air ambulance services will be extended. 3:50 p.m.

Our aftercare program, addiction services and public health programs will also be extended.

Our assistive devices program will be expanded to help adults also enjoy better access to these supportive devices. Bearing in mind the unique and extensive health care needs of women, my government will establish a distinguished advisory task force to review health care services for women in Ontario. Along with other specific initiatives, my government will provide an additional \$73 million for hospital capital projects. Also, we will establish additional beds in chronic care hospitals, homes for the aged and nursing homes in order to provide services for those requiring extended and long-term care.

The growth in our aged population and their challenging and changing needs for services present challenges for my government. We will develop a far-reaching, community-based care system that will expand community programs and limit the growth of unnecessary institutional services so that our senior citizens can remain in their communities, in a manner that respects their dignity and their lifelong contribution to society.

The development of an overall plan and a comprehensive network of community and health services for elderly persons living in their homes is essential. To meet this task, a minister for the elderly will be appointed to supervise the consolidation of the full range of elderly services now undertaken by my government.

Consistent with my government's emphasis on community-based care, significant new funds will be provided for our homemakers program to increase services available at home for the elderly and disabled adults.

My government is concerned about the impact of the federal budget on the incomes of the elderly. My government will increase its tax grant program for seniors to help compensate them for inflation-related losses in income. In addition, we will make strong recommendations urging the government of Canada to compensate fully for inflation those pensioners receiving the guaranteed income supplement.

In facing the challenges of high inflation and population growth during the last decade, Ontario earned an enviable record of both public- and private-sector achievement in providing fair access to rental accommodation. As Ontario keeps growing, new challenges must be addressed. My government's commitment to rent review and adequate rental supply will be reinforced in this session.

For deliberation this month, you will be asked to consider basic reforms to the Residential Tenancies Act to reduce to four per cent the maximum rent increase permitted without review and the establishment of a workable rent registry, along with other important measures of benefit both to tenants and to responsible landlords.

Because of its tremendous social importance, ongoing regulation of the rental market must remain in the public domain. Through wise and responsible consideration, regulations can be designed to the mutual benefit of all concerned. This is a grave responsibility for this assembly. Along with the interests of tenants, we must be mindful of the circumstances of small landlords and the vital contribution of the private sector generally. Excessive or irresponsible regulations would drive out the private sector and thereby harm both tenants and taxpayers.

Bearing in mind our concern for the supply of rental accommodation as well as its cost, my government has decided that it must introduce a major new program to ameliorate, substantially, unacceptable shortages of rental accommodation, particularly in our urban areas. Accordingly, a five-year, \$400-million rental supply fund will be initiated to stimulate private, cooperative, nonprofit and convert-to-rent projects. The popular Ontario housing rehabilitation program will be reintroduced, and assistance will be provided to help tenants purchase their first home. Not only will these programs create significant employment, they are essential to avoid rental shortages, particularly for those with modest incomes. From both perspectives, we look to the government of Canada to participate responsibly, as it has in the past.

To enhance the growth and integration of this great province, my government will be undertaking new initiatives over the next five years to improve major transportation systems in Ontario. Commuter rail services, using the most beneficial technology, will be put in place from Oshawa to Burlington, and after consultation, ultimately to the city of Hamilton. Work will commence on extending Highway 400 north and Highway 416 from Ottawa south to Highway 401, and on the new Highway 407 north of Toronto. Recognizing the importance of public transit to the urban environment and working people of Ontario, my government will maintain its strong support for municipal public transit improvements.

In representing what is most decent and civilized in the character of our province, this assembly will have an opportunity in this session to consider and amend fundamental laws regarding our respect for the individual.

With the proclamation this year of the equal rights provision of the Charter of Rights and

Freedoms, an omnibus bill will be introduced shortly to bring Ontario's statutes into closer conformity with the letter and spirit of the charter and the Ontario Human Rights Code. Just as my government dedicated itself to help secure an entrenched charter for all Canadians, we are equally resolved to ensure that it is applied effectively.

As well, the Attorney General (Mr. Pope) will introduce today substantial amendments to the Family Law Reform Act to ensure that partners in a marriage are treated as equals in the event of divorce and that enforcement of subsequent support obligations is more effective and efficient. They will provide for a new, more equitable and more certain method of dividing assets at the termination of a marriage. Also, my government will establish a special office to ensure effective enforcement of maintenance and custody orders.

My government remains concerned that the Child and Family Services Act sensitively addresses the important subject of adoption information respecting the needs and rights of both individuals and families. Therefore, my government has initiated a review of these provisions that affect the disclosure of adoption information. A commissioner has been appointed, and recommendations should be available for the consideration of this assembly by the fall.

My government proposes to increase awards available through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to victims and witnesses. Also, to aid those innocent citizens drawn into the criminal justice system, victim assistance projects under the supervision of the crown attorney in every county and district in Ontario will be established.

To improve the usefulness of the small claims court, my government proposes to raise the jurisdiction of its cases from \$1,000 to \$3,000 throughout Ontario. Bearing in mind our shared concern to reduce drinking and driving on our highways, our highly successful public education programs will be intensified in the summer months. Accompanying those initiatives recently announced by my government, expanded public education activities will be initiated to fight the intolerable crime of family violence in the home.

During this session, my government will introduce a new Loans and Trust Corporations Act, which will establish a more contemporary framework of laws and regulations for this growing Ontario industry. It will require all loan and trust corporations to maintain the same high standards as will be required of Ontario corpora-

tions generally, including tighter controls on such practices as self-dealing. Their investment powers will be expanded and financial stability improved by placing greater responsibilities on the boards of directors, a number of whom will have to be from outside the corporation.

For the benefits of equality to be fully realized by all our citizens, government, recognizing the pluralistic reality of our society, must help new Canadians become full members of the community. Along with equality before the law, programs and institutions in Ontario should respect our diverse cultures. This year, my government will expand our Welcome House program for immigrants and broaden multilingual services in our ministries.

My government believes that the quality of our society and, indeed, its economy will be shaped directly by our commitment to culture and the arts. Consequently, my government is establishing a \$30-million fund to modernize and extend our community and cultural facilities. In cooperation with the government of Canada, it will also invest in our vibrant film and entertainment industry.

The challenge for leadership is to meet vigorously the changing needs and circumstances of Ontario while maintaining the confidence and trust of the people. Better ideas will be found, and partnership and co-operation will be enhanced, if we further open up decision-making and public accountability.

To improve our capacity to lead responsibly, my government proposes a series of reforms for consideration early in this session. A government order will be submitted embracing most of the proposals of the standing committee on procedural affairs from the last parliament. Further, a new and expanded approach to the structure, operation and powers of committees of the Legislature will be brought forward.

The powers and scope of the public accounts committee and the Provincial Auditor will be expanded. As well, the resources of individual members to fulfil their responsibilities will be enhanced. Also, appropriate committees of the Legislature will be requested to review appointments to the chairmanships of major public boards and commissions. To enhance their relevance and sensitivity, my government will intensify its determination to assure greater representation of minority groups and women in these important public institutions.

4 p.m.

Legislation will be introduced shortly to enhance the rights to privacy of the individual.

Better access to information about government activities will be secured by introduction of freedom-of-information legislation, which will provide for independent review.

Government must not be hardened to the diverse claims of society but must be hard on itself in the management of public resources. My government will proceed with a series of changes to strengthen accountability and efficiency in public spending.

In keeping with my government's commitment to open government, the management of our various agencies and boards will be available to appear before those committees of this Legislature which may wish to review their activities.

The entire public sector must be accountable to its constituencies. My government publishes senior civil service salaries in the public accounts. We now propose to introduce legislation requiring publication of salaries of senior staff in crown agencies, municipalities, school boards, colleges, universities, hospitals and all those agencies funded principally from taxes.

Electrical generation has been an essential public utility for most of this century. My government therefore proposes to the Legislature the establishment of a select committee on Ontario Hydro. Also, my government will introduce legislation in this session to empower the Ontario Energy Board to set, as well as review, electrical power rates in Ontario.

My government reasserts that our continuing ability to meet new opportunities will not be borne by new taxes but primarily by careful management of our resources and significant productivity gains in our services.

While the provision of essential public services by our government does not and cannot in the future permit our public servants the right to strike, their sense of public duty and their competence have been central to Ontario's public sector productivity gains. This should be well appreciated by this assembly. While our growing population has increased the need for our services, public sector employment has steadily declined. My government intends to make further progress.

As part of our fiscal plan for the next five years, my government is committed to achieve a five per cent reduction in the civil service by 1990. This reduction of 4,000 positions will be accomplished by normal attrition and early retirement. Further, my government is convinced that substantial savings can be gained by trimming the management hierarchy of our ministries and by ongoing program review.

Honorables membres de l'Assemblée législative, je tiens à répéter que la gamme d'initiatives que mon gouvernement propose dans le présent discours et qu'il entend prendre cette année fournit à cette Assemblée l'occasion unique et la responsabilité d'accélérer le développement de l'emploi, à titre de priorité absolue, d'améliorer les conditions de travail des Ontariens, de protéger l'environnement, et également de préserver la dignité des personnes moins favorisées, la vitalité de nos nombreuses collectivités et la qualité de la vie démocratique en Ontario.

Honourable members, I want to reiterate that in the range of initiatives my government proposes in this address to act on this year, this assembly has a unique opportunity and responsibility to expand employment growth as our first priority, to improve the working conditions of our people, to protect their natural environment and, as well, to serve the dignity of the less advantaged, the vitality of our many communities and the calibre of democratic life in Ontario.

Compassionate and lasting reform in Ontario has been won by building consensus and the patient consideration of diverse interests. This is particularly relevant now regarding the regulation of small businesses, the application of wage compensation and new environment laws. My government believes this assembly will best represent the people through moderate and balanced deliberation.

It is my government's expectation that the directions we will now undertake will be judged on their merits by this assembly and in the future as worthy of the spirit of our times and the opportunity for progress inherent in this good society.

May Divine Providence attend your deliberations.

In our Sovereign's name, I thank you. God bless the Queen and Canada.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

Prayers.

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that to prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of His Honour's speech, which I will now read. [Reading dispensed with.]

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

FAMILY LAW ACT

Hon. Mr. Pope moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Timbrell, first reading of Bill 1, An Act to revise the Family Law Reform Act.

Motion agreed to.

MOTIONS

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Hon. Mr. Grossman moved that the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor to this House be taken into consideration on Thursday next

Motion agreed to.

HOUSE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Grossman moved that the House not sit in the chamber tomorrow, June 5, 1985.

Motion agreed to.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that Mr. Peterson, the member for London Centre, is recognized as leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

ROLL OF MEMBERS ELECTED

Mr. Speaker: I also beg to inform the House that the Clerk has laid upon the table the roll of members elected at the general election in 1985.

The House adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

APPENDIX

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(125 members)

First Session, 33rd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. J. B. Aird, OC, QC

Speaker: Hon. Hugh A. Edighoffer Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)

Andrewes, Hon. P. W., Minister of Health (Lincoln PC)

Ashe, Hon. G. L., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Durham West PC)

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Ottawa West PC)

Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Ottawa South PC)

Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs (Kenora PC)

Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)

Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)

Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of Industry and Trade (Sarnia PC)

Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)

Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)

Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)

Caplan, E. (Oriole L)

Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)

Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)

Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)

Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)

Cordiano, J. (Downsview L)

Cousens, Hon. W. D., Minister of Correctional Services (York Centre PC)

Cureatz, Hon. S. L., Minister without Portfolio (Durham East PC)

Curling, A. (Scarborough North L)

Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC)

Dean, Hon. G. H., Minister of Revenue (Wentworth PC)

Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)

Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Labour (York East PC)

Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)

Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)

Eves, Hon. E. L., Minister of Community and Social Services (Parry Sound PC)

Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)

Fish, Hon. S. A., Minister of the Environment (St. George PC)

Fontaine, R. (Cochrane North L)

Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)

Fulton, E. (Scarborough East L)

Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)

Gillies, Hon. P. A., Minister of Skills Development (Brantford PC)

Gordon, Hon. J. K., Minister of Government Services (Sudbury PC)

Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)

Grandmaître, B. C. (Ottawa East L)

Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Solicitor General (Mississauga East PC)

Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)

Grossman, Hon. L. S., Minister of Education, Minister of Colleges and Universities and Provincial Secretary for Social Development (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)

Guindon, L. B. (Cornwall PC)

Haggerty, R. (Erie L)

Harris, Hon. M. D., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Nipissing PC)

Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)

Henderson, D. J. (Humber L)

Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)

Jackson, C. (Burlington South PC)

Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)

Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)

Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L)

Keyes, K. A. (Kingston and the Islands L)

Knight, D. S. (Halton-Burlington L)

Kwinter, M. (Wilson Heights L)

Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)

Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)

Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Citizenship and Culture (York West PC)

Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt NDP)

Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)

Mancini, R. (Essex South L)

Marland, M. (Mississauga South PC)

Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)

McCaffrey, R. B. (Armourdale PC)

McCague, Hon. G. R., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)

McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)

McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC) McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)

McKessock, R. (Grey L)

McLean, Hon. A. K., Minister without Portfolio (Simcoe East PC)

McNeil, R. K. (Elgin PC)

Miller, Hon. F. S., Premier (Muskoka PC) Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Mitchell, Hon. R. C., Minister without Portfolio (Carleton PC)

Morin, G. E. (Carleton East L)

Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)

Munro, L. O. (Hamilton Centre L)

Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)

O'Connor, T. P. (Oakville PC)

Offer, S. (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, H. P. (Quinte L)

Partington, P. (Brock PC)

Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)

Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)

Pierce, F. J. (Rainy River PC)

Poirier, J. (Prescott-Russell L)

Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, C. (Yorkview L)

Pope, Hon. A. W., Attorney General, Provincial Secretary for Justice and Minister responsible for French-Language Services (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, G. (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)

Ramsay, D. (Timiskaming NDP)

Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, D. R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)

Rowe, W. E. (Simcoe Centre PC)

Runciman, Hon. R. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Leeds PC)

Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)

Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)

Scott, I. G. (St. David L)

Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)

Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)

Smith, D. W. (Lambton L)

Smith, E. J. (London South L)

Sorbara, G. S. (York North L)

South, L. (Frontenac-Addington L)

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (York Mills PC)

Sterling, N. W. (Carleton-Grenville PC)

Stevenson, Hon. K. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Durham-York PC)

Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Taylor, J. A. (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Don Mills PC)

Treleaven, R. L. (Oxford PC)

Turner, J. M. (Peterborough PC)

Van Horne, R. G. (London North L)

Villeneuve, Hon. N. Minister without Portfolio (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Ward, C. C. (Wentworth North L)

Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)

Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)

Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)

Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Miller, Hon. F. S., Premier and President of the Council

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics

Grossman, Hon. L. S., Minister of Education, Minister of Colleges and Universities and Provincial Secretary for Social Development

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and Minister responsible for Women's Issues

Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation and Chairman of Cabinet

McCague, Hon. G. R., Minister of Transportation and Communications

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Labour

Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Solicitor General

Pope, Hon. A. W., Attorney General and Provincial Secretary for Justice

Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Citizenship and Culture

Ashe, Hon. G. L., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet

Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of Industry and Trade

Fish, Hon. S. A., Minister of the Environment Andrewes, Hon. P. W., Minister of Health

Dean, Hon. G. H., Minister of Revenue

Eves, Hon. E. L., Minister of Community and Social Services

Harris, Hon. M. D., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy

Runciman, Hon. R. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Gillies, Hon. P. A., Minister of Skills Development

McLean, Hon. A. K., Minister without Portfolio

Mitchell, Hon. R. C., Minister without Portfolio Cousens, Hon. W. D., Minister of Correctional Services

Gordon, Hon. J. K., Minister of Government Services

Stevenson, Hon. K. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food

Cureatz, Hon. S. L., Minister without Portfolio Villeneuve, Hon. N., Minister without Portfolio

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

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Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)

Grossman, Hon. L. S., Minister of Education, Minister of Colleges and Universities and Provincial Secretary for Social Development (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)



Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 33rd Parliament Thursday, June 6, 1985

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

Published by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario Editor of Debates: Peter Brannan

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, June 6, 1985

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

COMMISSION ON ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that I have today laid upon the table the eighth report of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses respecting indemnities of the members of the Ontario Legislature.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: I would like to introduce to members of the Legislative Assembly and ask them to join me in recognizing and welcoming in the Speaker's gallery Mr. Elijah Harper, member of the Legislative Assembly for Rupertsland, Manitoba.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Mr. Speaker: This being the first opportunity I have had to welcome and introduce to you the pages for the beginning of this session, I would like to place their names and ridings on the record:

Sarah Barker, London Centre; Cameron Cobb, York East; John Dent, Essex South; David Epp, Waterloo North; Lisa-Marie Flynn, St. Catharines; Sal Iacono, York Centre; Lindsey Jeffrey, York Mills; Kristi Lynn Kerford, Durham York; Matthew Lane, Huron-Middlesex; George MacPherson, Mississauga South; Dean Maltby, Simcoe East;

Robert Papineau, Sudbury; Jonathan Pollack, Oakwood; Allegra Rich, St. George; Marc Sanderson, Brantford; Paula Smith, Oshawa; Karen Snelson, Scarborough-Ellesmere; Gillian Snowling, Welland-Thorold; Sara Sterling, Carleton-Grenville; Sandra Stewart, Mississauga North; David Wright, Windsor-Walkerville; and Kathryn Yates, Hamilton Mountain.

Please join me in welcoming the pages.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

SPECIAL WARRANTS

Hon. Mr. Ashe: In accordance with section 51 of the standing orders of the assembly, I am

tabling the special warrants issued when the Legislature was not in session. Copies of these special warrants have been placed in the postal boxes of each member.

A special warrant is issued by the Lieutenant Governor under section 4 of the Management Board of Cabinet Act, when the Legislature is not in session, authorizing expenditures of an urgent nature for which no appropriation exists.

One special warrant provides for general and necessary government expenditure on and after the first day of April 1985. The other provides for the general and necessary government expenditures of the Office of the Provincial Auditor, the office of the chief election officer and the Office of the Ombudsman on and after the first day of April 1985.

Since authority for making payments had to be in place on April 1 for the beginning of the fiscal year and the House was not then in session, the two special warrants were required. If the House had been in session, the expenditures authorized by the special warrants would have been approved by way of interim supply granted by the Legislature.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Hon. F. S. Miller: Before I read my statement, let me welcome all the new members on both sides of the House to this Legislature. Let me congratulate my two fellow leaders on their showing in the election. I am sure both are proud of their parties and their organizations. I am proud of mine.

[Later]

Mr. Peterson: I join in offering my congratulations to all the new members. I have not seen such an influx of new members since 1975. They are a very good-looking lot and much brighter, I am sure, than the class of 1975. They will make a very great contribution to this House.

Mr. Breaugh: Speak for yourself.

Mr. Peterson: I was just speaking for my party, obviously.

Many of these members will find we all came in a partisan way representing our parties. We have had our differences of opinion in the past, and I am sure we will in the future; but I am also sure members will agree with me that we do as individuals and as members of parties have very much more in common than we have things that divide us. Particularly since the throne speech of a couple of days ago, I am persuaded this minority House can make great progress to renew and change Ontario and I am looking forward to that opportunity with great determination.

DISASTER RELIEF

Hon. F. S. Miller: I wish to inform the House of the progress that has been made in assisting the communities in central Ontario that were struck by a series of tornadoes last Friday. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Timbrell) will provide additional details of our relief efforts at the conclusion of my remarks.

I wish to begin by offering to the families and friends of those who lost their lives in this disaster the profound sympathies of all members of this Legislature. Our prayers today are with them and with the many victims who lie in hospitals recovering from the injuries they received. It is our hope that their recovery will be swift and complete and that they will be returned to their loved ones as quickly as possible.

In the wake of this tragic event, we have attempted as a government to bring together all the necessary services, resources and agencies in one united effort to provide comfort to the victims of this disaster and to help them to rebuild their lives and their communities. More than 20 communities were destroyed in whole or in part by a series of very powerful tornadoes. In many cases, houses, buildings and farm properties were literally ripped apart by the force of the winds.

2:10 p.m.

In the hours immediately following this disaster, representatives of some 16 provincial ministries, along with representatives of the federal government, met to co-ordinate our relief efforts. On the following Monday we met with the heads of the council of the affected municipalities to work out further details.

The central Ontario disaster relief fund was established. Individual disaster relief centres were established in five communities: Barrie, Orangeville, Tottenham, Arthur and Grand Valley. A separate provincial committee was established to assist industrial and commercial businesses damaged by the storm. Financial aid was authorized under the Ontario disaster relief assistance program.

Provincial assistance in this case will be triple the normal rate. Each dollar raised by the disaster relief committee will be matched by \$3 in provincial aid. Emergency funds are being made available immediately in cases of extreme hardship. In addition, we have met with representatives of the federal government to obtain additional financial assistance under the federal disaster financial assistance arrangements program.

As I mentioned, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing will provide further details on those and other matters in a few moments.

Thanks to the goodwill, the hard work and the sheer determination of the people of our province, the communities affected by this tragedy are on their way back. At this moment hundreds of volunteers are working their way along the path taken by the tornadoes, cleaning, fixing, painting, building and striving to return to a degree of normalcy the lives of the people in the towns

In the first moments following the storms, organizations of every conceivable makeup raced to the scene to help out. Individuals arrived with food, clothing and blankets, anything that could possibly be of assistance. People opened their doors to provide shelter; businesses opened their doors to provide all manner of goods.

Special mention must be made of professionals involved—the police officers, firefighters, armed forces personnel, Red Cross workers and many others who responded quickly and effectively to the demands made upon their services. Through these and countless other individual actions, the people of Ontario have again demonstrated the concern, generosity and breadth of spirit which have made this such a fine province in which to live. Ontarians may derive considerable pride and satisfaction from the manner in which they have responded to the needs of their fellow citizens.

On behalf of the government, I would like to thank all those who have given so much of themselves throughout this past week. Their efforts have made all the difference in the world and have earned our profound and lasting appreciation.

In closing, I would again like to extend our deepest sympathies to the families and the friends of those who have been lost to us as a result of this tragedy.

Mr. Peterson: May I also join with the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) in extending thanks and congratulations to the people who have been involved in the cleanup from the series of tornadoes that hit our community.

I had occasion to visit there on Saturday last, the day after the tornadoes, and I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, I have never in my life seen anything like it. It was a complete rearrangement of the landscape. There were pieces of metal driven into trees, insulation hanging on trees, great harvest silos in the middle of the fields far away from their foundations, and houses completely torn from their foundations. It was the most incredible thing I have ever seen in my life. To realize it happened in 10 or 30 seconds makes us never cease to marvel at the wonders of nature.

I want to congratulate the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, who were immediately there on the job, showing leadership and helping the thousands of people who had already been involved in that cleanup. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, from the point of view of my party I am willing to do anything I can to assist these gentlemen, to honour any commitments they make and work with them and the citizens who are trying to bring an effective resolution to the many personal problems that have been faced.

All that being said, in the midst of this great natural tragedy, I, who had the opportunity of visiting Barrie and Grand Valley, did not see one unhappy face. I saw remarkable stories of personal courage, people who had lost everything who were out there with their chainsaws. Even the former member for Chatham-Kent, Andy Watson, was there. Many of us remember him. I believe his mother-in-law lives in Grand Valley. He was there that morning with his chainsaw cutting up trees on his mother-in-law's lawn. He must have a marvellous mother-in-law.

It shows the kind of help that has come from all quarters right across this province. I know it will continue. There have been fund-raising efforts. The minister was running this morning to raise money. There are telethons; Global is doing one on Saturday. I suspect every member of this House is participating in one way or another to bring help to that area.

The fact that we all pull together in these kinds of tragedies is a testament to the good people of this province. I again assure you, Mr. Speaker, of our complete support for the initiatives of the government.

Mr. Rae: I simply want to join the Premier and the leader of the Liberal Party in extending our sympathy, as I have been able to do personally, to the families that have been affected by this tragedy and who have lost their loved ones. It is an enormous tragedy for those families and for those who are still waiting to hear happy news from the doctors and the hospitals concerned.

I would also like, first of all, to congratulate the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for doing what they have done in this last week. The way they have responded so quickly in pulling these communities together represents in its own way the best in speedy action from the government of Ontario.

It should also be noted that many people have responded through the radiothons we have all heard going on all week, not only here in Toronto and in Barrie but throughout the province, and with the kind of money that has been raised. The understanding I have is that all the money that has been raised in these radiothons is going to be matched on a three-to-one basis by the provincial government. I think that is a very good precedent for this province and something I know is going to make a difference to people.

There is no predicting these kinds of events. They are an enormous tragedy when they happen. They are perhaps a reminder of the power of nature and something of the nature of the world, in that there are things out there that cannot be predicted and cannot be controlled.

What we can do something about is the response we make, the response that comes from individuals, from communities, from governments, from organizations, from volunteers, from everybody, to try to compensate in some way for the tragedy that has happened and to give these communities a chance to rebuild and to renew themselves.

I say to the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson) and to the member for Simcoe Centre (Mr. Rowe) that, knowing the kinds of thoughts and burdens they have experienced as members, our hearts go out to them. We join with them in reaching out to these communities and in saying that whatever can be done by government must be done, locally, provincially and federally. And, of course, we join all the citizens in the province in trying to do whatever we can to see that people are compensated for this enormous tragedy and for the devastation that has happened.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I would like, first of all, to thank both honourable gentlemen opposite for their comments on the events of the last almost six days. We on this side have been equally impressed by the willingness of everyone in this House and of people from all parts of the province to participate, first, in meeting the immediate effects of the disaster that struck last Friday and then in joining in efforts to raise the funds and carry out the programs necessary to rebuild this part of the province.

Before I go into my prepared statement for today, it occurs to me that in the spirit evidenced here today I would like to invite the leaders of the two opposition parties each to name a member of his caucus to work with me as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and with all our staff to oversee this effort to ensure that it remains a completely nonpartisan, united effort.

I would also like to join with the Premier in offering congratulations to the literally hundreds of volunteers who have donated considerable time and effort to help rebuild the communities affected by this disaster. As minister responsible for co-ordinating our relief efforts, I think it is obvious that we really could not do it without them.

As the Premier has mentioned, our primary concern as a government has been to unite all our energies and resources to help rebuild the affected communities and the lives of the people living there. To that end, a number of provincial ministries have been involved in providing various kinds of assistance.

The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services have provided backup to local health units for counselling of tornado victims suffering from shock.

The Ministry of the Environment has been testing water supplies and establishing interim sites for the disposal of debris of all forms.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General has moved a trailer into Grand Valley to provide a temporary replacement for the medical centre that was severely damaged.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade is convening an interministerial committee that will establish an office in the stricken area. This committee will examine ways in which the province can assist local industries and commercial establishments affected by the disaster and those people who have been left unemployed.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications has met with local municipal staff to assist with the cleanup of roads and bridges.

Finally, in the area of housing, we have worked to get homeless people into emergency housing as quickly as possible. Providing shelter is a crucial concern in these communities as the high winds completely destroyed a great many homes.

We have established a central emergency housing control centre at the South Simcoe and Barrie Housing Authority office in Barrie. This central office is co-ordinating the activities of three emergency housing offices that have been established in Barrie, Tottenham and Grand Valley. Each of these offices is maintaining an inventory of available accommodation and is receiving applications daily for emergency housing.

As of yesterday, these three offices had received a total of 91 applications for emergency housing. The inventory of available units included 200 units offered by the Barrie community at large, consisting of houses, apartments and rooms; 40 units, comprising 25 family units and 15 one-bedroom apartments, offered at Canadian Forces Base Borden; 21 family units, ranging from two bedrooms to eight bedrooms, offered by the Ministry of Community and Social Services at its occupational therapy unit in Edgar.

Moreover, the Salvation Army is prepared at its command centres in Barrie and Toronto to provide furnishings and houseware packages to these units as required.

At present, it appears the need for emergency housing can be met through our available stock of shelter. However, should additional housing be required, we have made the following preparations: between 70 and 80 trailer and mobile home units have been identified through operators in southern and central Ontario and knowledge of more becomes available by the hour; two sites near Grand Valley have been identified with a capacity of up to 60 units if required; two sites near Barrie have been identified to accommodate even more units; further, 18 units owned by Ontario Housing Corp. in eight communities have been identified for use as required.

As I have stated, it is our hope that trailers and mobile homes will not be required to meet the need for emergency shelter. However, a truer picture of the need is not expected to materialize until the end of this week, and once we have that knowledge we will take all necessary and appropriate action.

As the Premier has already mentioned, we met at the beginning of this week with the heads of council of the 21 affected municipalities and have enjoyed excellent co-operation throughout the week. These municipal councils have appointed citizen representatives to the Central Ontario Disaster Relief Committee, which will hold its first meeting this evening.

In the area of financial assistance, arrangements have been made for banks, trust companies, credit unions and offices of the Province of Ontario Savings Office to accept donations to the central Ontario disaster relief fund through the Red Cross.

I must point out that the public response to the financial needs of these communities has been nothing less than extraordinary. Donations are pouring in from all manner of fund-raising activities, revealing once again that the people of this province truly are among the most generous in the world.

As has been noted, provincial assistance in this serious instance will be on a three-to-one basis and victims can apply for assistance at any of the five local offices in Barrie, Orangeville, Arthur, Grand Valley and Tottenham.

At this point, we estimate that total provincial assistance will be more than \$20 million. I caution that this is only an estimate and it may change when we receive a more complete accounting of the damages in the next week. At that time, we will also be able to inform the federal government as to the amount of federal financial assistance these communities require.

Yesterday, the Solicitor General (Mr. Gregory) and I travelled to Ottawa for discussions on this matter with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Honourable Erik Nielsen, and with the Minister of National Revenue, the Honourable Perrin Beatty, who is responsible for co-ordinating the federal relief effort and has been closely involved with all our activities in the aftermath of this disaster. Federal assistance to our province will be made under the disaster financial assistance arrangements program, and it will be the first time this province has had to call for assistance from the federal government under that long-standing agreement.

We have indicated to the federal government that we will provide them with detailed data on the cost of repairs when those data have been compiled next week. Based on those figures, the federal government will be making a contribution over and above the \$20 million provincial contribution. In the end, the combined financial aid will likely be quite substantial, and it will ensure these communities will be fully restored.

In all, it appears these communities are already well on the road to recovery. We will continue, of course, to carefully monitor the situation and respond to any and all unforeseen difficulties.

At this point, it appears the generosity of the people of our province, combined with the determination and pride of the people of the stricken communities, will see us through this difficult period.

FAMILY LAW REFORM

Hon. Mr. Pope: On the opening day of the new session, I introduced for first reading as Bill

1 an act which will replace the Family Law Reform Act passed in 1978. The new bill will be known as the Family Law Act, 1985.

I would like now to advise the members of this House and the people of Ontario of the great importance of the measures contained in Bill 1 and to reiterate that this government gives those measures the highest priority.

The Family Law Act is the culmination of a process that began 11 years ago under my predecessors. They engaged in extensive public consultations on matrimonial property reform that led to the Family Law Reform Act of 1978. We have received many helpful letters and submissions from individuals and organizations across Ontario; these include the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues, the Canadian Bar Association—Ontario, family law section, and the Ontario women's directorate.

The changes build on our earlier initiatives in this vital area and reflect our continuing desire to lead in the promotion of economic equity when marriages end.

Under the bill, the value of all property acquired by spouses during their marriage, other than gifts, inheritances and other very limited exceptions, will be shared equally between the spouses on marriage breakdown or on the death of one of them. Any increase in the value of property that is exempt from sharing or any income from it during the marriage will also be shared equally by the spouses on a division of assets. As well, the family home will retain the special status it has under our existing legislation and will be subject to sharing regardless of whether it was acquired before or after the marriage and irrespective of whether it was purchased by a spouse or received as a gift or inheritance.

There will be a limited discretion in the court to relieve against unusual economic circumstances where the equal division of the value of assets would be unconscionable. This discretion is more confined and guided than the equivalent provision in any of the other common law provinces of Canada.

The changes reflect our view that marriage is an economic partnership in which the contributions of each spouse have the same value regardless of the form in which they are made. This will add a considerable degree of certainty to the law of matrimonial property and assure the equitable sharing of business property that is acquired or appreciates during a marriage.

I want to point out a feature of the bill that will be particularly important in relation to professional partnerships, small businesses and farms. We recognize that in some cases the division of these assets on marriage breakdown might pose problems. Accordingly, the bill would direct a court to accomplish the financial settlement between the spouses so as not to interfere with the operation or economic viability of a business or farm. In this connection, a variety of remedies will be available to the court, including, for example, time payments over as long as 10 years.

2:30 p.m.

The new legislation will apply to persons already married unless they have entered or in the future enter into a marriage contract or separation agreement, or unless they have proceeded to a final judgement or settlement in property litigation before June 4, 1985. In other words, this bill takes effect as of June 4. We have chosen to do this because we do not want to create two classes of married persons in Ontario depending on the date of their marriage, and we certainly do not want to have a flurry of litigation commenced so as to avoid the application of the new property sharing rules.

It will remain open to couples, including couples who are already married, to contract out of the matrimonial property system contained in this bill. We are committed to a sufficient period of lead time to allow those couples who wish to do so to enter into a marriage contract before the new law comes into force.

Ontario's new legislation builds upon the foundation established by our 1978 initiatives and is consistent with the trend of matrimonial property reform in both Canada and the United States. It reflects the approach recommended by the Ontario Law Reform Commission. Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have substantially similar property systems in place.

Much of the 1978 Family Law Reform Act's approach to providing special protections for the matrimonial home has been retained under this new bill. I have already mentioned that so far as the division of matrimonial property is concerned, the matrimonial home is always shareable, regardless of when or how it was acquired. As in the former act, both spouses are given equal rights of possession in the matrimonial home, and neither spouse may dispose of or encumber the home without the participation of the other or a court order dispensing with the other spouse's consent.

A new feature of the legislation is the creation of provincial offences for breach of a court order for exclusive possession of a matrimonial home or nonmolestation of a spouse. We have adopted suggestions that it was necessary to create a speedy means of removing a spouse from premises occupied by a family, primarily in the interests of physical safety for the spouse in occupation and the emotional wellbeing of the children, where an exclusive possession or restraining order is being disobeyed. By creating a provincial offence for breach of this kind of order, it is possible to permit the arrest of a person, thus physically removing a person from the premises and removing any threat to the family members in occupation.

Not much has changed with respect to the support measures in the new bill, but there are a couple of very important developments. We propose that the period of cohabitation of persons living together outside marriage should be shortened from a minimum of five years to three years for the purpose of one of them having a right to claim support against the other under the act. This was recommended by the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues.

Also in the support sections of the bill are two provisions that will permit the indexing of orders for support according to the consumer price index, so that the person receiving support does not have to apply for a variation when the order has been substantially eroded by inflation.

I am proud of the path we blazed in 1978, and I am pleased that the experience of the seven years since will enable us to take these additional, very significant steps. We anticipate there will be a good deal of public discussion of these bills, and we are eager to have the views of interested persons.

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I point out to you a departure from 300 years of parliamentary tradition in the introduction of Bill 1, a very important bill, which I know we will have an interesting time debating and passing into law.

With your extensive experience in the chair, I am sure you are aware that Bill 1, introduced following His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's speech, takes up business not referred to in the speech from the throne, thereby emphasizing the independence of this House from the crown and our right and responsibility to consider our own business ahead of the business of the crown.

You will remember that His Honour's speech detailed this legislation and that it is part of the formal package that was put before us. In that sense I do not consider it out of order, but you should be aware that the Attorney General has departed substantially from the traditions of both this House and parliamentary practice.

Mr. Warner: The only honourable thing is to resign.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There is a familiar echo here, which I might say I hope to hear later this summer.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the government House leader have a point?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes.

Might I take this opportunity to say that the opposition House leader, not surprisingly, is right once again on this issue. However, I might say that the government, in assisting His Honour the Lieutenant Governor in preparing the throne speech, wished to emphasize that it was meeting the commitment of the Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Timbrell) and the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) in pointing out that it would be Bill 1. We were anxious to honour that commitment.

Might I add two things? One is that I will heed the advice of the opposition House leader and join with him in doing everything possible to protect 300 or 700 years of parliamentary tradition as this session unfolds. Second, I take this opportunity to mention to the House that the order of business for next week has been the subject matter of some discussion between the House leaders and we will clarify it tomorrow morning as opposed to doing it later this afternoon as we ordinarily would.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), and I am certainly glad to see the co-operation that is felt here. Does the Premier have a further statement?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes, I do. It is just a coincidence that His Honour saw the light of day too in the course of the action.

TRIBUTES TO FORMER SPEAKER

Hon. F. S. Miller: On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to acknowledge, with thanks and with personal appreciation, the contributions of the former Speaker of this House, the member for Peterborough (Mr. Turner).

As we are all aware, the acceptance of the Speakership entails, as you will find, Mr. Speaker, a substantial commitment of both time and energy and, at times, patience. The office carries with it the duty to chair the Board of Internal Economy, to administer the Office of the Assembly and to represent all honourable members in external matters.

However, it is in the capacity as presiding officer of this House that a Speaker is most visible to the people of Ontario. In carrying out

the duties through some of the most heated and difficult debates ever witnessed in this chamber, the member for Peterborough evidenced a courteous and patient nature that often differed from the tone set by the debates themselves.

Despite the partisan nature of this place, he endeavoured to make his decisions on the basis of precedent, custom and fairness. It is never easy to make judgements that will receive the unanimous support of 124 masters. In his efforts to serve us all, the member for Peterborough evidenced his respect both for the rules and for the other members of this House, and he has earned our congratulations.

Equally deserving of our congratulations is the newly elected Speaker of this House. Throughout his years as a member of the assembly, he has earned the confidence, respect and goodwill of colleagues on all sides. Having served as Deputy Speaker in the 31st Parliament, he has already acquired knowledge of the position to which he has now been elected. We on this side of the House are pleased to welcome him to his new duties and to wish him well in his new capacity. **2:40 p.m.**

Mr. Peterson: It is an honour for me to address you as Mr. Speaker and to give you my congratulations as well. As you look forward to your new duties, you will obviously be in a position where you will never again have to take advice from anyone here. You will be very much on your own, and we will respect the wise pronouncements that will come in the course of this legislative session. We all wish you very

well in your new duties.

While we celebrate renewal and change in this province, it is also fitting that we honour those who have served this Legislature with distinction. I join with the Premier in adding my voice in praise of the member for Peterborough, who served us so well. As a former pugilist, I am aware that in the heat of combat sometimes the referee gets a little roughed up, but even in spite of that, referees are necessary and all of us respect that role.

I say to my honourable friend that he served this House very well and was always a gentleman. He distinguished this province as its official host, along with his wonderful wife June, Mrs. Speaker to many of us. The two of them distinguished this House with their service. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank them for their contribution.

Mr. Rae: On this happy occasion, Mr. Speaker, may I offer you my congratulations. I am looking forward to a very productive session of

the Legislature and I want to congratulate you on your election. Perhaps there will be times when you will understand why you have to be dragged into this place and into the chair, but until that day happens I am sure you will want to share with all of us a sense of pride which you, your constituents and your family will have in having taken on the responsibility as the Speaker in what is going to be, if nothing else, a most interesting session

The member for Peterborough is wearing a pink shirt today. I want to congratulate him on his attire. He looks much more relaxed than we have seen him on other occasions. We too very much appreciated the way he served as Speaker and presiding officer of this House in the last assembly.

We congratulate him and Mrs. Turner on the wonderful job they did serving as hosts and, in a sense, as guardian angels of this place at Queen's Park. I wish him well in his new partisan role. We look forward to participating in the debates, whatever side of the assembly they may come from. We enjoyed working with the member and look forward to working with him in the new House.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to say thank you for your words of congratulations and I would like to add my personal word to the member for Peterborough. I met him in the hall the other day and I appreciate the offer he made to assist me at any time. If the honourable member wishes to say a word, I am sure the other members would be glad to hear it.

Mr. Turner: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure whether this is a point of personal privilege—

Mr. Breaugh: A point of information.

Mr. Turner: Whatever. The Speaker is going to have to make these rulings from time to time. I do want to extend to you, Mr. Speaker, my very sincere congratulations.

Mr. Martel: Condolences.

Mr. Turner: No. Mr. Speaker, you are occupying a chair that goes back in history many centuries—700 years as a matter of fact—and you are going to enjoy it. You are going to be called upon from time to time, as has been alluded to, to make some very difficult decisions. However, I know from your past experience you are not going to have any difficulty in making a fair decision. I want to say again how pleased I am that you are the one chosen to occupy that eminent spot.

To the other members, the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) and the leader of the third party, to all my colleagues in this assembly, I would like to thank them very kindly for their co-operation in the past and their very generous and kind remarks today, which are very much appreciated. I will be very happy to tell June what has been said and I am sure she will appreciate it too.

Mr. Peterson: Why do I keep hearing about 710 years of parliamentary tradition?

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, the honourable member cannot ask the Speaker questions.

Mr. Peterson: Enjoy all this praise, Mr. Speaker. You know it will end shortly.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Peterson: I have a question for the Minister of Education. Given the divisiveness of the separate schools question and the distinct lack of information that has been shared with members of the community right across this province, and given that a large measure of that divisiveness and ill feeling is a function of the lack of information that has been shared with people-for example, I have talked with people about this issue, people picketing against it, and they say to me: "I am not really against it. I just do not know what is going to happen to me, my job, my child, my school, my community"-why would the minister not immediately table all the information he has, including the impact studies and the draft legislation, so we could start the public discussions?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Might I begin by saying, in fairness to the Commission for Planning and Implementing Change in the Governance and Administration of Secondary Education in Ontario, which has been doing quite extraordinary work on this issue for some time now, it would be wrong to say that nothing has been done or that extensive work has not been done. It really has.

There have been 18 public hearings throughout the province, not confined to one place. More than 200,000 information sheets have been distributed in order to support those hearings and provide other information. Several hundred briefs have been received by the commission, and of course the commission has now dealt with 40 of the boards-all of the separate school boards, in other words-that are seeking to proceed with funding this year. In all those

circumstances, broad information has been available to those interested.

I think it would be a mistake for us, on the other hand, to pretend the public at large is as fully aware as we would like of all the implications of what all members of this House, as I understand it, think ought to be done commencing this September.

The point I would like to make is that there is nothing unusual about that fact. In the case of almost every piece of legislation we introduce, even those of significant importance such as this one, there is a difficulty in transmitting all the information to the public, explaining it all to the public and having broad public awareness of all the implications.

How do we go about that? As I say, I think the planning and implementation commission has gone an extraordinarily long way to do that. There is no member of this assembly who has not been discussing this issue with members of the public during the past three months.

The stage we have now reached is the following. A bill is going to be introduced in this House shortly; that is, in a matter of days, I expect. In order to ensure this bill is a proper one, I am again having a round of negotiations—sorry, discussions—with all the major groups affected before introducing this bill. That should not take very much longer.

I have already instructed my staff that upon introduction of this bill we will have a compendium far exceeding anything that has been delivered to this assembly before. It will include, I believe, if I heard the member's question properly, all the information he requested, all the briefs and all the information from the planning and implementation commission; in other words, it will cover every aspect of this question.

When this occurs, and when we have a bill that is in the proper form—one that we as legislators, at least on this side of the House, think is in proper form, given the sensitive nature of this bill—it will be available. Then the long consultative procedure from here to legislation will begin once again.

Mr. Peterson: Would the minister not agree with me that time is very much of the essence in this matter? We have less than three months now before the implementation of this legislation. The minister has been in possession of draft legislation for a long period of time now. He has the impact studies. He knows, as I do, the impact will not be as severe in some respects as had been expected by a number of people.

I am told, for example, that only 300 teachers may be displaced in one way or another as opposed to the thousands that had been expected. We are aware that some 30 boards, more than half of them, have already come to agreements and that there is progress.

I call on the minister again to move with haste in this matter as opposed to just letting it sit. Day by day, in my view, the situation becomes more critical, and that is why I am asking him to release what he has now.

Obviously, it will be amended; it will be changed. There will be input from members of this chamber. We all take that responsibility upon ourselves. But please do not rest under the delusion that Mr. Newnham has satisfied the appetite of the people of this province for input and for public consultation. Would the minister take that under advisement?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, I will. Again, I hope the member has noticed that everything I have said since I accepted these responsibilities points towards more extensive public consultation and using every means possible.

Let us be open about the question. There is no doubt about the fact that whatever bill I should offer in a draft form will be interpreted by many as being the single version—that is right, in my judgement—that this government believes is the single way to go. Until the time at which I, as a relatively new minister, am satisfied the draft is in a form I am prepared to introduce into the House, then I am very hesitant to encourage more public debate on a level that misunderstands what we intend to do. I do not think that would add to the process.

In other words, I believe that if I were to hand out this afternoon the current ministry draft—and I pause to say there are now at least nine—if I selected one of them, it may not reflect what this cabinet wants to introduce into the assembly, but it would be seen to be that; and if as a result of putting out that draft bill there is more misunderstanding and there are more hardened positions out there, then it would have been a counterproductive exercise.

It is for that reason I think the proper course is the one I outlined.

We intend not only to consult with the teacher groups, the parent groups and other interested groups through the next few days on this bill, but also to show them the options we are considering so that they may reflect on those options and tell us which ones would be most appropriate in the

bill we finally put out. I think that is the

appropriate way to go.

I might add that this government and this party do not under any circumstances believe there should be constraints put on public input when it

gets to the committee stage.

I see in the media reports the Liberals do not quite share that view at this time. Though they have not committed on either side, they refuse to undertake that there would not be constraints. The third party has said there should be. This party stands on record as believing there should not under any circumstances be any public constraints on public input over the next few months and will stand behind this.

Mr. Rae: It did not take long for the Minister of Education to find his partisan form. It has now been 359 days since Premier Davis, as he then was, announced the policy with respect to the extension of funds. It is hard for those of us on this side of the House to believe the Conservative Party in its collective wisdom over the last 359 days has not been able to produce draft legislation with respect to this matter.

I would like to ask the minister if he will table that legislation immediately and, because of the political events which everyone in this House and outside is aware of, would he not agree it would make best sense, as soon as that draft is made available, to have that draft sent to committee immediately so that discussion can take place in the month of June prior to the political changes of which all of us are aware?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the concern of the leader of the third party is that it gets to committee as soon as possible and that there be no delay, this party would be happy to continue to sit right through the months of June, July and August, without fail and without stop, to send the bill through.

Mr. Conway: I think it will come as somewhat of a surprise to the people of Ontario that on the eve of the introduction of this historic bill we are now told there are at least nine drafts of that legislation in his possession.

Will the minister give this House an undertaking that all nine drafts will be available to this Legislature and to any other government that might be called upon to deal with this legislation in the not too distant future?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Might I say that perhaps as time goes on the honourable member may become more familiar—perhaps not—with the way bills are drafted, but there has not been any bill of substance ever introduced into this House without going through many drafts. That is the

ordinary course. The legislative draftsmen have to go over these bills many times. A bill goes to legislative counsel and back, a working draft for a minister, and out for consultation. There is nothing unusual about the nine drafts.

I repeat this government's undertaking that all of the information that is available to us will be available to all members of this House and to the public for as much consultation as the public desires, in an unfettered way, for as long as they wish.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Mr. Peterson: I have a new question for the Premier with respect to the federal budget. The Premier will be aware of the new provisions in the recently announced federal budget, that there are policies of deindexation of the old age security that will affect almost one million residents of Ontario. He will be aware that policy will next year take \$91 million directly from the pockets of Ontario senior citizens and more than \$500 million by the year 1990. This translates into about \$100 per person next year and \$500 to \$600 at the end of this decade.

Was the Premier consulted by his federal colleagues before they brought in this policy? If not, why not? If he was consulted, what position did he put forward on behalf of Ontario senior citizens?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am pleased to have the opportunity to answer the member's question. The normal process in a budgetary matter is not to have a great deal of advance consultation. As a result of that, we responded on page 27 of the throne speech and said we were concerned about the impact the budget would have upon the elderly people in this province.

As the Leader of the Opposition knows—and I am sure he agrees with this—we said we would increase our tax grant program for seniors to help them compensate for those losses.

Mr. Peterson: Do I interpret that to mean the Premier has given up trying to influence the federal government? Does he agree with what they have done? What does that mean? He obviously has not done it in the past, but will he press the case with his federal colleagues on behalf of the seniors of Ontario—or has he already capitulated?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I thought the Leader of the Opposition had read His Honour's throne speech. It says, "In addition, we will make strong recommendations urging the government of Canada to compensate fully for inflation those

pensioners receiving guaranteed income supplement."

Certainly we will carry on the fight. We represent the interests of the people of Ontario in every sense. We have never been shy to bring those interests to any federal government of any political stripe. We will carry on doing that.

The member said during the election campaign there was going to be an increase of 22 cents a gallon in gas prices, and it was 1.3 cents a litre.

Mr. Foulds: Why is the Premier continuing to allow Michael Wilson to pick the pockets of senior citizens in this province? Why in his statement does he continue to allow the government to undermine the universality of old age security pensions, which is what his statement does?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, before answering this supplementary question, do they have the right to a supplementary now that they are one party? Which party am I addressing?

Mr. Warner: The party that is asking the Premier to resign.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We have a new name for that group. It is the social alliance party, the SAPs.

Interjections.

3 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I believe a question was asked. I would appreciate it if members would listen to the reply.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Over the years this province has shown a concern for and an interest in the wellbeing of our senior citizens that I would say is unmatched by any other province in this country.

Mr. Nixon: If the Premier's influence was such that he could not persuade his Tory cousins in charge of the Treasury in Ottawa to retract their decision to de-index these pensions, is it a serious proposal on his part and the part of his Treasurer (Miss Stephenson) that in the unlikely event they are left with any responsibilities as far as the ministries are concerned, they are going to make up these lost funds on behalf of the seniors in Ontario? If so, what procedures do they put before the House in order to prepare for that?

Hon. F. S. Miller: We always give an indication of a program in the throne speech. My friend, having had a great deal of experience, and whom I hold out as probably the most knowledgeable and intelligent in terms of ways and means of this House of all members of all parties, knows fully the procedures of this House. Be-

cause we have had a very successful management of the province, the revenues, one sees, are doing very well. That will be revealed in the budget the Treasurer will bring forward.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Rae: On the question of separate schools, I want to ask the Premier to get some reality into the discussion. We all know the nature of political events in this province over the next few weeks.

I ask the Premier if he will accept reality and, instead of allowing a delay of perhaps as long as four or five weeks in hearings by a legislative committee on the subject matter of the bill on extension of separate school funding, refer the bill to committee as soon as it is available so it can be discussed through the month of June and so the people can have access to the process as soon as possible.

Why not make a move on that so we can take it away from the partisan nature of the discussions which are going to go on this month to make sure the public has access to the process as soon as possible?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I hope that June 19 is early enough. With your assistance and with your co-operation, that is altogether possible.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We will call it on June 19.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes. I will gladly call it on June 19 and proceed with it without any delay.

Mr. Rae: Will the Premier stop playing games? He knows there is a vote coming June 18. He knows the people have spoken. Will he stop playing that game and face up to reality? All we are asking is whether for a moment he will step back from the partisan nature of what is happening here and accept the fact he is losing power. Will he also accept that when the Premier of this province made the announcement on June 12, 1984, all 125 members of this House said we would be involved in ensuring it was dealt with in a nonpartisan way.

I stood up and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) stood up at that time. What I am asking the Premier to do is make good on the sense of what took place on June 12 and let us get it to committee right away, have the committee deal with it and leave the fall of the government apart from that issue, because it is much too important to be subject to that kind of partisan procedure.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I do not recall the leader of the third party saying those kinds of things during

the election campaign. I do not recall his sharing any of the benefits of that discussion. I do not recall his saying he wanted full discussion. We want full discussion. A member of that party said we would cut it off as quickly as we could to get it through. That is what he said.

Mr. Rae: No.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, he did. He was your critic.

Mr. Martel: You had better ask Norm Sterling what he said.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Oh, here it comes.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: Where is Norm Sterling when we need him?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You are embarrassing your party.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sweeney: Given the fact the implementation commission that was set up by his government is the only contact the separate school and public school boards now have with this pending legislation, and given the fact this implementation commission has authorized up to 40 boards to proceed, can the Premier indicate to us and to those boards outside what authority this implementation commission has and how valid the directions it has given to the boards are in respect of hiring staff, acquiring facilities and doing those kinds of things?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Sooner or later the final authority will be in a bill of this House; I assume the member knows that. However, when Mr. Davis announced the funding on June 12 of last year, to the cheers of this Legislature, he also set a series of conditions. Those conditions became the basis on which the implementation committee reviewed all the proposals by all the boards, and they have been very fundamental to it. They are basic to the bill, and I assume they will be honoured—I hope they will be honoured—as we go through the process of discussing the bill.

If we learned anything in this election, and I hope the member learned it too, it was that the people of Ontario in their concern for this very important piece of legislation, whether they wanted it or not, as the Leader of the Opposition said, wanted an opportunity to understand it, to take part in framing it and to offer their advice. We, at least in this party, have said: "Yes, we have heard you. We want that opportunity, we are going to give you that opportunity and we will not see it arbitrarily passed without giving you your chance."

Mr. Rae: It is precisely because we do not want any sense of arbitrariness introduced into the process that I am making a very simple suggestion to the Premier. I honestly cannot understand his reluctance to do it this way. Why not refer the bill to a committee as soon as it is available? There is ample precedent for that. Let the committee get on with its work in June so the public can have access to the process in June.

I do not think it is fair to the public for the Premier to insist that everything be held up as we go through this throne speech and as we go through the process in which his government is going to be defeated. It is not fair to those people who feel strongly about this issue. If the Premier were sincere in wanting to see that this matter is treated on a nonpartisan, triparitsan basis which is fair to everybody, involves the public and assures public access, why would he be so reluctant to get the matter to committee right away in June without any conditions, without anything attached to it?

Let the committee go to work. Let it happen tomorrow. It can start tomorrow. The process of hearings can start next week. There is no reason for delay, other than the Premier's determination to tie it to his partisan success in the future.

Hon. F. S. Miller: My friend does not expect me or the rest of the world listening to believe that he is so untutored in the ways of this House as to think he does not have ways to help us too. Why, for example, if he is really interested in the people of this province, has he said he will defeat this government in spite of a good throne speech? Why has he said he will not listen to any reason? Why has he then left this House open to whatever delay he and his colleagues want in the middle of the summer?

The best way is to make sure that this House continues sitting on a daily basis, doing the business of this province as it has in the past and as it should now, honouring the traditions of parliament.

Mr. Rae: What the Premier of this province is really saying is that if the Conservatives cannot be in power for ever and ever, then they are not prepared to play the game. It has to be their way and nobody else's way, and that is why he is going to be out on his ear in two weeks. That is exactly the reason.

3:10 p.m.

PATRONAGE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Rae: I have a list of 200 order in council appointees appointed since May of this year to various boards and commissions. These are

various assistant crown attorneys, people on boards of convention centres and people appointed to pension commissions and other places. I would like to ask the Premier what his intentions are with respect to the next two weeks. Is it his intention to carry on and continue for the next two weeks with a series of essentially public appointments, many of which are made on a partisan basis, or does he intend to proceed differently and leave office with an element of dignity rather than an orgy of patronage?

Hon. F. S. Miller: There are literally thousands of volunteers in this province who serve on things such as the Royal Ontario Museum board, school boards, university boards, etc. Those are the kinds of appointments the member is talking about. Many of them have absolutely no remuneration at all. They are seen as services to the community. We have a system that has been in place for years and almost all are reappointments. Our system, unlike his, has always looked at the competence of people when making a choice.

Mr. Rae: Let me refer specifically to a series of appointments the government has to make; I refer specifically to changes in the operation of the Workers' Compensation Board. Appointments to the previous board were made on the old boy or old person network basis in terms of senior positions. I would like to ask the Premier his intention with regard to the appointments that take effect on July 1 of this year.

Is it his intention to proceed on the old-fashioned patronage basis or does he intend to proceed on a different basis so that, as I say, he can leave office with some dignity rather than in an orgy of self-interested appointments that brings the very notion of public service into disrepute?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I do not think the member heard the comment I made earlier that most of the names he was reading were reappointments to boards. As the member knows, we have a six-year rule past which, most times, no one sits on an agency, board or commission.

The member mentioned specifically the Workers' Compensation Board. Reappointments made recently that probably have not yet come to his attention all terminate December 31, 1985, because we are contemplating changes in the board at that time.

Mr. Rae: I would like a clear answer from the Premier with respect to his intentions in the next two weeks.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Neither faster nor slower.

WATER QUALITY

Mr. Bradley: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I congratulate her on assuming this new position.

It was stated in the speech from the throne, "My government will continue to impress upon appropriate American governments their responsibilities regarding potentially unacceptable pollution levels in the Niagara River." I would like to know how the government of Ontario can maintain any credibility with the United States government when it botches its presentation on the S area case in the United States district court and when it hides information about Ontario's contribution to the growing toxics problem in Lake Ontario.

Specifically, I would like to ask the minister why her office failed to release an important study that shows our own sewage plants are pumping as much in the way of toxic chemicals into the Great Lakes as the 10 large chemical plants and oil refineries in Sarnia.

Hon. Ms. Fish: We intend to pursue discussions and put pressure on the American authorities at several levels. We intend to pursue it through our normal intergovernmental contacts, through the appeals that have been filed in the court system on particular cases and, as well, through direct bilateral contact, most notably with officials in New York state.

I am very troubled at the suggestion there has been any information or any reportage that has been hidden. In fact, the ministry has been extremely open, particularly in responding through international joint studies on sources of pollution on the Ontario side as well as on the American side of the Niagara River and the Great Lakes. Indeed, the entire intent of the analysis and the study was to enable us, particularly in the Niagara River area, to move to clean up several of those sites that were identified on a much more stringent basis than is done on stateside.

If the member would be kind enough to give me the particulars in the report he is concerned about, I will ensure that, if it is not already released—and my understanding is that it was—it certainly will be.

Mr. Bradley: It was not during the election campaign.

This report, which I now have and which I know the minister has seen, entitled A Survey and Evaluation of Organic Compounds in Nine Sewage Treatment Plant Effluents in Southern Ontario, reveals that the plants are contaminating the lower Great Lakes and several tributary rivers with 272 organic chemicals, five of which were

singled out by the study as posing a significant threat to humans. The report also says there are 3,200 tons a year of pollution flowing into the Niagara River, six times the amount given in the joint report that came out last October.

I would like to know why over the last few years the government has cut \$33 million from the ministry's annual budget, mostly from funds for upgrading sewage treatment and water plants, when the ministry had this report and knew about the serious chemical problems developing in the sewage treatment plants of this province.

Hon. Ms. Fish: The member will know from the speech from the throne that very substantial new cleanup initiatives are being taken. Substantial additional funds are targeted to improvement of municipal water and sewer works and to improvement for beach cleanup, most of which is through water and sewer. In particular, there is a substantial \$100 million fund to assist with hazardous waste cleanup.

Those measures, flowing from the specific analysis and reports that have been done, point us in the right direction of improved technology and, still better, improved treatment of our water quality. They are the kind of actions the people of Ontario can be proud of and sure of.

GRAIN FINANCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM

Mr. Ramsay: In the absence of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Stevenson), I would like to ask the Premier a question regarding the failure of the grain financial protection program to cover the claim of soybean producers who have balances outstanding on basis contracts involving the R. B. McKinlay and Sons Ltd. insolvency.

Will the minister, or the Premier in this case, seeing that farmers thought these contracts were covered according to information supplied by the ministry, authorize an emergency payment of \$1.4 million? Will the minister also instruct his staff to prepare amendments to the present legislation so that the new Minister of Agriculture and Food will be able to introduce this legislation as soon as possible?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Before I refer that to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Timbrell), who also knows a lot about farming, I thank the member for thinking, unlike his leader, that we will be here long enough to do that.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The plan in question was developed after extensive consultation with the industry. I will take the member's expression of

concern as notice and ensure that the Minister of Agriculture and Food, or officials of that ministry, deliver a full response to the member as soon as possible.

Mr. Ramsay: There is a pamphlet regarding the program produced by the ministry in which two exemptions are mentioned, but this particular exemption is not mentioned. The tragedy of this is that these farmers entered into this agreement in good faith and have been let down by this government. I also request that under the circumstances the licensing of these firms be tightened up. This firm was approved six months previously and now it owes \$3 million to the farmers of this province.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the minister will take that to the proper authority.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Riddell: I am sure the former Minister of Agriculture and Food is aware of the number of farmers who are hanging near bankruptcy because of the R. B. McKinlay and Sons Ltd. insolvency. I am sure the minister is also aware that many of these farmers were not able to get operating capital this year because they have not been paid for the corn that was in storage with R. B. McKinlay.

Has the minister consulted at all with the Minister of Agriculture and Food-he is the former minister—to ascertain whether the basis contracts are going to be honoured under the grain financial protection program? The farmers then would know and would be able to go to the bankers and say, "Yes, we are going to get paid for our crop because the government has decided it is going to honour the basis contract."

Can the minister tell us today? Can we go back and tell the farmers they will get paid for the grain, the soybeans and the corn they sold on the option contract?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: As I have already indicated, the original question and supplementary by the new member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay), whom I welcome to the House, and the supplementary by the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) will be referred immediately to the office of the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I am sure as soon as he returns to this House he will deliver to the members a full and complete answer.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. Epp: I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. First of all, I want to congratulate him on his appointment.

Many of us saw the devastation and destruction in Barrie and that area the other day, and I guess one of the big surprises after seeing the destruction was that there was not a greater loss of life. It was reported in the Globe and Mail this morning that in the minister's pronouncements is a phrase that he will give the three-to-one funding if need be. I wonder if he would clarify that for the benefit of the House, because there is a lot of uncertainty among the public and particularly in the communities that reaped this devastation.

Also, would he clarify for the benefit of the House the three-to-one forumula for individual projects? What is the comparison? If the Red Cross gives money, is that money included in that particular project as part of the public contribution, or is it not included as part of the public contribution to the devastation in that area?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: We have been in touch with a number of organizations that have launched various fund-raising appeals to ask them to ensure that all the proceeds from those appeals end up in the hands of the Central Ontario Disaster Relief Committee; in other words, in the central financial pot, if you will, from which claims will be paid to the affected citizens in that area. That includes the Red Cross.

I will give an example. On Tuesday I took a call from the Chancellor of Toronto, the Most Reverend Bishop Wall, who sought my guidance. I advised him that any contribution the archdiocese might want to make should go to the central Ontario disaster relief fund. That afternoon, His Excellency had delivered to me, on behalf of his Eminence the Cardinal, a cheque for \$100,000. That has gone into the central fund, and we are urging all others to do the same so we will then match.

The use of the words "if needed," I suppose comes in part from our experience with the last major disaster of this type, in Woodstock six years ago, where the fund-raising campaign was so successful they did not have to draw from the government as much as the government was willing to donate.

I point out, though, that the three-to-one matching of funds donated is but one part of the assistance provided by the provincial government. There are the obvious things that have already happened: the response by the Solicitor General and his staff at the very time the disaster struck; the responses of the various ministries, some of which I outlined in my statement today; and the things that will be ongoing with respect to the municipal assessment base. There are some

municipalities whose assessment bases are destroyed, and we are going to have to assist them for some time to come to enable them to continue to function as viable municipalities by providing assistance with respect to municipal roads and bridges and so forth which will be over and above anything we might do with respect to matching contributions. I will not go through the whole list, because it is extensive.

When I came back from Barrie on Saturday afternoon and called a meeting of the ministry, I found that we ended up, as the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) said, with 16 ministries represented in my boardroom around noon on Sunday, and when we got started we found we were touching every part of the government.

The assistance to the area has already been extensive. It has been well co-ordinated by the local municipalities and by the local members of the Legislature, who are working very closely with them.

Mr. McKessock: Last Saturday morning I was asked by the reeve of Melancthon township to view with him the disaster in the southern part of my riding. I found the complete destruction of a restaurant, a new \$200,000 potato storage facility and numerous potato and cattle farming operations.

The people affected asked me two questions; although they were not recognized in the press, they want to make sure they are recognized in the government assistance program. First, what steps should they take now to ensure they are going to be able to participate in the program? Second, the destruction is so great that some of them have to determine whether in fact they can afford to rebuild, and they would like to know what percentage of the loss they can expect to be covered by the government.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I spoke with that reeve at about one o'clock last Saturday in the community centre in Grand Valley, as did some of my officials. I believe the head of that council now understands that, like all other councils, his council must ask by resolution to be designated a disaster area.

We have purposely gone about this in the way we have to avoid any problems between municipalities. We are calling it the Central Ontario Disaster Relief Committee and the central Ontario disaster relief fund so there will be no problems between or among the municipalities. There will be one central pot of money from which all claims will be drawn so that we do not end up, as has apparently happened in the past, with separate funds in each municipality. One

municipality might be very successful and end up having more money than it requires to meet the claims there; another might not have enough, and we get into that kind of problem. We are not going to have that in this instance.

We met with 21 municipal council heads on Monday afternoon. Since then we have learned of five other municipalities farther east in the province that were affected, and they will be included, assuming their councils ask to be included by way of a council resolution.

As far as the coverage is concerned, the normal maximum is 90 per cent.

ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Warner: As I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted four years ago, this government does not deserve the confidence of the people.

I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. I would like to know why the minister has failed to protect legislatively the residents of homes for the aged from being arbitrarily removed from a home, as in the case of Mrs. Lorenzetto, who not only was removed from Villa Colombo but also was abandoned in a car in front of her relatives' home, Villa Colombo being fully aware that the relatives could not adequately care for her.

Hon. Mr. Eves: I am sure the honourable member is aware that every home for the aged in Ontario, including Villa Colombo, has its own independent board of directors, which oversees the operation of that home.

In this particular circumstance the home went to great lengths during a period of some five years to encourage Mrs. Lorenzetto's family to take her back into their home or to assist them in finding alternative accommodation for her. Her behaviour had become extremely disruptive to other residents of the home. She was not fulfilling her obligations with respect to her diabetic diet.

Despite the fact this was repeatedly brought to the attention of the family by phone calls, meetings and letters, the family quite frankly did not appear to be interested in finding alternative accommodation or in asking Mrs. Lorenzetto to comply with the requests of the home and its administrator. Finally, after some time, one grandson in the family did agree to assume responsibility for trying to find alternative accommodation for Mrs. Lorenzetto.

3:30 p.m.

Although not obliged to do so, the villa took it upon itself-normally this would be done by the

family—to send out applications to 12 other settings where she could possibly be located. One facility, a retirement home, accepted the applicant. However, the family refused to accept the arrangement because it was too far for visiting.

Finally, at the end of May, this matter all came to a head. On two occasions discharge orders had been extended by the villa. The family was telephoned and advised Mrs. Lorenzetto would be brought home on the weekend of June 1 and 2. The family member who talked to the administrator on the phone indicated the home should do whatever it felt was necessary. On the way home in the car, Mrs. Lorenzetto indicated she was pleased she was going home and asked the staff members into the house for coffee when they arrived there.

Apparently, between the telephone call and the time Mrs. Lorenzetto arrived home, some members of the family had a change of heart and they refused to accept her upon her arrival at home.

Subsequently, I am led to believe, and it is my understanding of the facts today, at least one daughter and one son were willing to accept Mrs. Lorenzetto into their home and are taking care of her now.

Mr. Warner: I will be pleased to correct the minister later on his misinformation.

I am asking the minister, instead of putting the responsibility back on a 76-year-old woman who is not well, to correct the Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act and to draft changes so the consent of both a doctor and the family is necessary and suitable accommodation in place before a home is allowed to throw someone out. That is what I am asking him to do.

Hon. Mr. Eves: The administrator and staff members at the home over a period of five years were more than co-operative with the family and tried to enlist the family's co-operation and support with respect to Mrs. Lorenzetto.

Mr. Warner: They washed their hands and left the lady in the car.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Curling: My question is to the Minister of Skills Development.

On May 15, 1984, the former Treasurer, now the Minister of Education (Mr. Grossman), introduced in his budget the Ontario Youth Tourism program. The then Treasurer said the program would be in operation "this summer." That was in June 1984. The first trainees entered the program in January 1985. Will the minister please explain this eight-month lapse and bring us up to date on this program?

Hon. Mr. Gillies: The Ontario Youth Tourism program was announced as part of the Ontario Youth Opportunities package in the 1984 budget. The 10 programs introduced by the then Treasurer in his excellent budget have taken off extremely well. Many of them are oversubscribed at this point. We anticipate part of the additional funding announced in the throne speech will be going into some of these youth opportunities programs.

One of those that was requested by the tourist industry on some occasion back in the spring of 1984 was a special program to be directed at enticing young people to be trained in the tourist industry and brought into it on short-term placements. The program is modelled very much on our Ontario career action program. The training period takes with it a \$100-a-week stipend.

We have found that the takeup on the program has not been nearly as great as on many of the others under the OYO package. This is partially because there are many other programs under my ministry that are already working in developing new trainees for the tourist industry. One finds them in OCAP, the Ontario youth employment program, summer Experience and so on.

It is currently my intention to roll the youth tourism program into another, larger program, probably OCAP, to help cut down on the duplication of paperwork and on the overlapping I sense is taking place between it and some of the other programs.

Mr. Curling: Let me inform the House that by the end of the fiscal year, March 1985, exactly 18 trainees had gone through this program. Of those 18, not one has been hired by private sector tourism agencies as the program envisioned. All 18 have been given government-paid jobs in other youth programs.

The youth commissioner has said he hopes 1,500 trainees will be produced this year. That still remains a reduction of 40 per cent of the original goal. Given the government's sad performance last year, does the minister seriously believe even this modest target can be reached?

Hon. Mr. Gillies: I am sure the modest target can be reached. I would suggest to the honourable member that, if he wanted to be fair, he would also advise the House that Ontario Youth Opportunities and our other youth programs now expend some \$175 million a year, that we employ in excess of 100,000 young people in this province and that the province's commitment to

youth employment has quadrupled in the past four years, a record unparalleled in any other jurisdiction in this country.

I hope the member will be as quick to point to some of the successes and to some of the lives that are being changed by these excellent programs as he is to point to a program that has had a slow start and perhaps a lower than anticipated takeup.

FLOODING

Mr. Hayes: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources arising from his response on the serious shoreline flooding problems along Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie. Will the minister explain why there has been such a long delay in responding to the serious flooding that has been happening in the fall and in the spring, especially in the past few years? Will he also tell me why this program provides only loans instead of outright grants to compensate for the damage?

Hon. Mr. Harris: The ministry has been involved for some time with conservation authorities and municipalities in the area. If the honourable member is referring to the program that has just been announced, as well as emergency and short-term aid, I believe a long-term program was announced by my colleague on Monday or Tuesday. I think that program was evolved through consultation with officials in the area, with conservation authorities, with municipalities and with the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini).

I know he attended a meeting in the deputy minister's office, and at that time the rough guideline of the program was discussed and shared with him. It was reported back to me that he agreed a logical way to start was in consultation with other groups. I understand the news of the announcement and of the manner in which we plan to proceed has been very well received.

Mr. Hayes: In view of the fact that the residents in my area believe persistent flooding is not purely a natural phenomenon but results from manipulation of the water levels in the Great Lakes, will the minister press the International Joint Commission to conduct and publish a study of the causes of this frequent problem and table the study in this Legislature?

3:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Harris: I am not sure I am going to agree today to do everything the member has suggested, given the time it might take. It might be an appropriate action for me to take. We have had some representations in the ministry that the water is being manipulated in some way. My

information, on investigation into whether it be by diversions or anything that is there, is that it is

a very minimal part of the problem.

However, in the light of the fact there are some people on both sides of the border who feel it is a major part of the problem, we are investigating it. We are looking at getting information out in public as to what impact there is from any artificial mechanisms along the water. I assure the member the information I have is that we are talking about very minimal amounts, less than tenths of an inch, and that when we talk about the wind and other problems, what the member refers to is a very minimal part of the problem.

Mr. Mancini: The question deals with a \$5-million program that has been specifically announced for the problems we have had in Essex and Kent counties. We have not received the lengthy technical detail we need in order to assess properly how this program can work and how the individuals who have been hurt will be able to have their pain eased somewhat.

In the light of these facts, would the minister guarantee he will keep an open mind as to how the money can be used, whether for breakwalls or structural repairs on homes, and ensure that all the money is not used for the repair of the roads and the provincial park which may have been badly damaged during the floods? I want to ensure that a good portion of this money is going to be used by the home owners who have been very badly hurt.

Hon. Mr. Harris: I think the question was whether the minister will keep an open mind. When I first decided to enter the profession I am now involved in, I did so not only with an open mind but also with open eyes. I would like to assure not only the member but also you, Mr. Speaker, and the House that I will keep an open mind on the issues the member raises.

TIMMINS HOSPITAL

Mr. Sweeney: I have a question to the newly appointed Minister of Health concerning the appointment of an architect for the new Timmins hospital. It is my understanding there was a direct conflict of interest involving a member of the interim board of that new hospital and the appointment of this architect. There is also the possibility of a misrepresentation on the part of that particular architect's Toronto partner. I understand the minister is aware of this. What is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: In spite of the very extensive briefings I have undergone during my two-week period in the ministry, the matter the

honourable member raises is not one with which I am completely familiar. If he would provide me with the details of his allegations, I will be pleased to take this as notice and report back to the member.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the member will follow the instructions given to him by the minister to provide him with further information.

PETITIONS

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Kerrio: I have a petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition

the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas any action to extend public funding to separate Roman Catholic secondary schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas it is uncertain whether extension would contravene the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and

Freedoms; and

"Whereas in democratic societies there is a recognized convention which respects the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters are debated in the Legislative Assembly, with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard before an appropriate committee of the Legislature;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on

the government:

"(1) to seek a constitutional referral prior to any implementation to determine whether extension would conflict with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"(2) to debate fully the issue of extension prior to any implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for the people to appear and be heard."

It is signed by teachers at the Lord Elgin Vocational School, Niagara Falls Collegiate and Vocational Institute and Westlane Secondary School.

Mr. McKessock: I have two petitions, one that I have received from the clerk of the session of the United Church, Palmerston, and one from the secondary school teachers, district 23 in my area, signed by 130 of my constituents. The first reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas any action to extend public funding to separate secondary schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas people in a democratic society have a right to be consulted prior to implementation of policies which change long-standing relationships; and

"Whereas there is an understood convention in democratic societies which respect the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters should be debated in the Legislative Assembly with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to debate the issue of an extension of public funding to separate secondary schools prior to implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for the people to appear and be heard."

Mr. Speaker: Before the member begins the second petition, there seems to be quite a number of private conversations. I wonder whether they could stop for the time being.

Mr. McKessock: This petition was sent to me by Mr. M. J. McKenna, director of education of the Grey County Board of Education, and is signed by 170 of my constituents. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the proposed extension of funding to separate secondary education will significantly change the character and delivery of secondary education throughout Ontario, reducing the density of students and the variety of educational programs offered; and

"Whereas the decision to extend public funding to Roman Catholic separate secondary schools was made without the benefit of public input, legislative debate or in-depth study of the potential impact of such a change in policy; and

"Whereas the necessary changes in legislation and regulations will be found to be more responsible if subjected to greater consideration and evaluation than is possible before the commencement of the 1985–86 school year; and

"Whereas the required program and accommodation modifications shall require more planning time than is available prior to September 1985; and

"Whereas any legislation that is inconsistent with the Constitution is to the extent of the inconsistency of no force or effect, we petition the Ontario Legislature to delay the implementation of the proposed separate secondary school funding until appropriate constitutionally acceptable legislation is in place."

Mr. G. I. Miller: I too have petitions.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas any action to extend public funding to separate secondary schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas people in a democratic society have a right to be consulted prior to implementation of policies which change long-standing relationships; and

"Whereas there is an understood convention in democratic societies which respect the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters should be debated in the Legislative Assembly with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to debate the issue of extension of public funding to separate secondary schools prior to implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for people to appear and be heard."

This petition has 74 signatures from the Delhi United Church. The second has 30 signatures from the Dunnville Secondary School. The third has 22 signatures from the residents of Haldimand-Norfolk. The fourth has 31 signatures from Port Dover Composite School. The fifth has 40 signatures from Simcoe Composite School. The sixth has 25 signatures from the Valley Heights Secondary School and the seventh has 56 signatures from Waterford District High School. 3:50 p.m.

FAMILY BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Ms. Bryden: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is signed by 43 residents and is on the subject of the administration of the Family Benefits Act. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Legislature as follows:

"The petition of the undersigned residents of Ontario who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your petitioners in the certain assurance that your honourable Legislature will therefore provide a remedy, humbly sheweth:

"That whereas women in the province of Ontario, as evidenced in the city of Ottawa, are being subjected to unnecessary harassment and unwarranted financial and social hardship by the Ministry of Community and Social Services in its arbitrary interpretation of regulation 424/82 (section 5(b)) of the Family Benefits Act (this section states that single women aged 60 to 64, sole-support parents and wives of institutionalized old age security recipients are not eligible for family benefits assistance if they are 'not living as a single person');

"That whereas the interpretation of the section of the act presently being used by the ministry is unfair in that it automatically assumes that the 'man in the house' is willing or able to assume financial support for the woman and her children;

"That whereas at present there is no protection under Canadian law to ensure financial support for women and children in such situations, which often prove to be temporary rather than permanent; and

"That whereas the present interpretation and application of regulation 424/82 (section 5(b)) of the Family Benefits Act by the ministry is inconsistent with the intent of the Children's Law Reform Act, the Family Law Reform Act and the Child Welfare Act, which first and foremost considers the wellbeing of the children involved;

"Therefore, your petitioners humbly pray that this Legislature immediately direct the government of Ontario to investigate and review its related policy in this matter and take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that women and children receive fair, unbiased and nondiscriminatory treatment in both determining eligibility for family benefits assistance and in reviewing cases which come before the ministry for reassessment."

PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

Mr. Van Horne: I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge that the provincial government amend the current legislation that will curtail the spread of pornographic literature and videotapes. We wish to express our gravest concern about the rampant spread of pornography in our society. Proliferation of magazines such as Penthouse and Hustler and the spread of pornographic videotapes is becoming an issue that we as teachers feel obligated to address."

This petition was signed by 330 members of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association in London and Middlesex county.

MOTIONS

DEPUTY SPEAKER AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Hon. Mr. Grossman moved, seconded by Mr. Nixon, that the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven) be appointed Deputy Speaker for this parliament, and that the member for Carleton East (Mr. Morin) be appointed Deputy Chairman of the committees of the whole House for the present session.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Grossman moved that, notwithstanding standing order 64(a), private members' public business not be considered until the first Thursday following the completion of the throne speech debate.

Motion agreed to.

4 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

HUMAN TISSUE GIFT AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Van Horne moved, seconded by Mr. Elston, first reading of Bill 2, An Act to amend the Human Tissue Gift Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Van Horne: This bill is one that I feel very strongly about. The Human Tissue Gift Act, which is relatively new in this province, is intended to be amended through this bill. Very simply, it will provide for a registry that would identify those who would be willing to donate an organ and, in my view, the registry would best be found through any and all who are eligible for Ontario health insurance plan benefits.

There is no question that medical science improvements in techniques and technology have led to a considerable demand for organs. Often they are very difficult to obtain or even to

identify. I would submit this is a very serious theme and one this assembly should address as soon as possible.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE

Consideration of the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. O'Connor moved, seconded by Mrs. Marland, that an humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Honourable John Black Aird, an officer of the Order of Canada, one of Her Majesty's counsel learned in the law, Bachelor of Arts, Doctor of Laws, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us.

Mr. O'Connor: Mr. Speaker, through you to my fellow members of provincial parliament, it is an honour for me to initiate this inaugural debate of the first session of the 33rd Parliament of Ontario and to move that this House endorse and adopt the policies and programs outlined in the speech from the throne presented to this assembly by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor on June 4.

May I also extend congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, in your election as our Speaker. We are confident you will preside over the business of this assembly with evenhanded impartiality, fairness and wisdom. You may be assured that you can count on the full co-operation of members of this party as you assume the responsibilities of this challenging and important position.

I would also like to extend congratulations to members of all three parties on their election to this chamber. Simply to have survived the sort of effort we have all expended with one's sanity intact is a victory in itself. For each of us sitting here, there are at least two other individuals—in my case three, one of whom I believe is here in the House—who offered themselves in the service of their fellow citizens only to meet defeat at the polls.

We were all honourably and ably opposed by individuals who, while they do not sit in this House today, have none the less served their parties, their ridings and the people of Ontario in a most exemplary manner. I would hope all citizens of Ontario, but in particular we in this

House, would take the time to reflect upon and applaud the contribution these people have made to our community.

I take this occasion to express my thanks to the people of Oakville for their support in the general election and for the confidence they expressed in me personally and in my party in electing me as their representative to this parliament. It is my hope that through my own efforts and with the support of my colleagues I will be able to vindicate the trust the people of Oakville have placed in me.

In assuming my place as representative of the riding of Oakville, I am most conscious that I am succeeding a man who served the people of Ontario and of Oakville in a most dedicated and effective manner during the 18 years he sat in this chamber. First elected to this assembly in 1967, James Snow served the people of this province as Minister of Public Works, Minister of Government Services and Minister of Transportation and Communications for 12 years. In the last capacity, Jim Snow managed and directed the development, maintenance and expansion of Ontario's first-class transportation and communications infrastructure and thereby contributed to the economic development and social integration of this vast province.

In discharging my duties as the member of the provincial parliament for Oakville, I will be guided and inspired by Jim Snow's record as an efficient administrator and a tireless, dedicated representative.

I am new to the provincial political arena and I must say my rookie session is proving to be a most interesting and stimulating one. There are predictions that this session will prove to be very short, that the hair which holds the sword of Damocles over the head of this administration will be cut and we will find ourselves back here some weeks hence to debate a new agenda, a rough draft of which has already been published in the local newspapers.

I am not sure we should add the fall of this government to the short list of life's inevitabilities, among which we now number only death and taxes. That subject is a matter that the members opposite have the right to decide. It is my hope that in making this decision they will carefully review the agenda this government has placed before this assembly for public debate in an open forum.

I believe the speech from the throne outlines an agenda that directly and effectively addresses the concerns and aspirations expressed by the people of Ontario during the last provincial election and reflected in the composition of this House. The speech from the throne details a program for action that will help secure economic growth and social equity for the people of Ontario. Through the throne speech this government has expressed its determination to help our regions and our key industries to achieve their full potential for the benefit of all our citizens.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We have heard that before.
Mr. O'Connor: And again and again and again.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It never comes true.

Mr. O'Connor: The throne speech makes it clear that the Progressive Conservative government is committed to policies that will allow for the rational development of our resources and enhance environmental protection. As it has in the past, the government of Ontario will continue to support programs to generate new job training and new training opportunities, and to ensure that all the people of our great province have an equal opportunity to share fairly in the social, economic and political life of our community.

Moreover, through the throne speech this government has dedicated itself to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Ontario through measures that will strengthen our high-quality and accessible health care and education systems and expand services for that fast-growing group in our society, senior citizens.

In sum, the throne speech puts before this assembly a responsible and responsive agenda. The throne speech demonstrates that this government is prepared to provide this province with responsible, moderate and effective leadership, the type of leadership the people of Ontario have come to expect from their government and the type of leadership required to realize fully the tremendous potential of this province.

Our efforts to achieve the objectives of sustained growth, new employment opportunities and social equity will be considerably assisted by the fact that during the past few years this province's economic performance has been without parallel in Canada. In 1983 and 1984 we experienced our two strongest years of growth in a decade, and in both years our economy significantly outperformed the national economy.

4:10 p.m.

In 1983, the first year of recovery from the recession of the early 1980s, the Canadian economy grew by 3.3 per cent in real terms; in Ontario, meanwhile, our economy expanded by 4.2 per cent in real terms. We bettered our performance last year, achieving a real growth of

six per cent and the biggest increase in real gross provincial product since 1972. Ontario's 1984 growth rate of six per cent compares quite favourably with the national rate of only 4.7 per cent. This province has quite simply led the nation in economic growth in the past two years. Under this government we expect to do so again in 1985 and 1986.

The strong economic growth we have experienced in Ontario has generated new employment opportunities for our citizens and has helped significantly to reduce the unemployment rate in our province. Last year, for example, economic growth in this province generated 147,000 new jobs, as average employment in Ontario increased by 3.6 per cent over 1983 levels. In the rest of the country in 1984, employment grew by only 1.9 per cent. In 1984, fully 55 per cent of all new jobs created in Canada were created right here in Ontario.

Also, last year our economy generated 39,000 new jobs for young workers in the province and our youth unemployment rate fell from 17.8 per cent in 1983 to 14.9 per cent—three percentage points lower than the national youth unemployment rate of 17.9 per cent.

Our province continues to lead the nation in employment growth in 1985. As of the end of the first quarter of this year, 181,000 more people were employed in Ontario than there had been in March 1983, and in that period, 63 per cent of all new jobs in this country again were created right here in Ontario.

In April of this year, 4.407 million of our citizens were employed in this province, more than ever in our history. In April 1985 the unemployment rate in our province stood at 8.3 per cent, 2.6 percentage points lower than the national rate and the second lowest unemployment rate recorded in any province in Canada.

In addition, the youth unemployment rate in Ontario over the first four months of 1985 averaged 15.4 per cent which, while admittedly unacceptably high, is significantly better than the national average of 19 per cent experienced during the same period. It should also be noted that from April 1984 to April of this year the number of young people employed in this province increased by 29,000, while youth employment in the rest of the country during that same period decreased by 5,000.

That type of economic expansion and those kinds of employment gains are not achieved by accident. They are the result of a partnership for growth which exists between the government and the private sector in Ontario. Those gains are the

result of hard work and determination by our people, the competitive spirit of our industries and the productivity of our labour force. They are also the product of several policies introduced by this government, policies which encourage initiative, reward risk-taking, attract investment and stimulate employment and economic expansion.

I am most encouraged that this government has served notice through the throne speech that it intends to continue to implement the type of job-creating economic policies which have not only helped this province recover from the recession but have ushered in a new era of growth. The top priority of this government is job creation. As His Honour told the House in the speech from the throne, "Higher employment growth must remain the unifying objective of economic policy."

To ensure that this province continues its pace-setting economic performance, this government will implement programs to encourage private sector economic growth and to increase direct public investment in job creation and skills training initiatives.

It is well recognized that a healthy private sector is the source of the vast majority of secure, well-paid, new jobs. In the last decade more than 90 per cent of all new jobs created in Ontario have been created in and by the private sector. It is also generally acknowledged that within the private sector it is the small and medium-sized firms that generate the most new jobs. As members on both sides are aware, Ontario's 240,000 small firms have created nine out of 10 new jobs generated in the last five years.

Aside from their important economic function, small businesses perform an important social role in that they provide many young people and women with their first employment or entrepreneurial opportunity. Any investment by government that can maximize the growth potential of this dynamic sector will pay substantial dividends in the form of new jobs and greater employment equity.

Given that all members are agreed that job creation is the top priority of this province, I am confident all members will support the government's proposal to reduce the tax burden on growing small enterprises. This initiative would help to compound the beneficial impact of measures introduced in the federal budget to assist the small-business sector.

As noted in the throne speech, Ontario is a major trading power. About one million jobs in our economy depend either directly or indirectly on foreign trade. Last year, assisted by programs introduced by this government such as the export success fund, the value of Ontario exports increased by a phenomenal 32 per cent, a rate of growth greater than that achieved by any other industrial jurisdiction. Exports represent a significant source of employment growth. It is estimated that every \$1 billion in exports creates 16,000 new jobs in Ontario.

As the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) has said on a number of occasions, the primary objective of our trade policy must be jobs for the people of Ontario. All trade strategies and proposals must be evaluated in terms of their impact on employment.

The creation of a committee on finance and economic affairs with the mandate to address the issue of trade objectives for Ontario would provide this House with a valuable means of ensuring that our trade policy furthered the attainment of our priority goal of job creation. It is vitally important that we in Ontario continue to refine a comprehensive and co-ordinated trade strategy designed to diversify markets and products and to encourage more of our producers to take advantage of export opportunities as they arise.

We must also have a well-defined understanding of how the provincial and national interest would be affected by various free trade schemes with the United States. Access to the American market, which consumes 90 per cent of Ontario's exports, must be assured. However, it should not be paid for by any diminishment of our economic sovereignty or job loss. The finance and economic affairs committee and the trade adviser proposed by the throne speech would assist this House to develop an appropriate response to the many complex issues it will have to address in this area in trade.

4:20 p.m.

As the member for Oakville, home of the Ford Motor Co. of Canada, Mack Canada and many automotive industry suppliers, I am most pleased that the government of Ontario will continue to press the government of Canada for an extension of the voluntary export restraints with Japanese auto producers. The one job in six in our economy that depends on the auto industry is too important to be bargained away or placed at risk simply because our friends to the south are satisfied with conditions in their markets. I know this government can count on the support of members of all parties in its efforts to ensure that the principles of fair trade are respected and Ontario jobs protected in the auto trade sector.

One of the hard lessons we learned during the last recession was that economic competitiveness is determined by the level of productivity, which is in turn related to the quality of the technology employed in the productive process. To enhance the competitiveness and productivity of Ontario firms and thereby protect existing jobs and create new ones, the government is proposing that the province establish an enterprise technology fund. This fund will be used to help qualifying firms upgrade their technologies and equipment.

Consistent with the view that all economic policies must respect the priority we have assigned to job creation, fund assistance will be conditional on an undertaking from recipients to develop training and retraining programs for their employees. Employees will also benefit through amendments that this House will be asked to make to the Labour Relations Act to require that employees be given advance notice of and be consulted on technological change. These measures will ensure that the process of technological upgrading will not result in job loss and will provide employees with training and retraining opportunities.

In addition to measures to stimulate employment growth through economic expansion, this government will increase its direct investment in job creation and training programs. The government has always recognized that it has a responsibility to invest public funds sensibly to provide greater employment opportunities for its citizens and to ensure that the province has a well-trained, skilled and flexible labour force.

For example, in 1982 this government invested \$133 million in a capital projects acceleration program that created jobs for 14,500 people. Through its commitment of \$110 million to the Canada-Ontario employment development program in 1983, the government provided work for some 26,000 more people. The three-year, \$450-million Ontario Youth Opportunities program and the \$115-million Ontario skills fund established in the 1984 budget have enabled 108,000 more people to take advantage of training and experience opportunities.

This year, through its commitment of an additional \$100 million to an employment and training supplement, we will make training and experience opportunities available to at least another 105,000 people in this province. In addition, accelerated spending on northern and rural road construction and maintenance and the continuation of last year's community economic transformation agreements program will use

public funds to expand employment opportunities in regions with high unemployment rates.

Furthermore, the commitment of an additional \$10 million to the tending Ontario's forests program, \$15 million to the recreation capital construction program, \$30 million to the cultural facilities fund and the \$400-million rental supply fund all represent significant public investments that will help create new jobs for Ontario citizens.

To assist all regions of our province to attain their full potential and to share fairly in the economic and employment growth, this government will commit an additional \$10 million to the northern Ontario regional economic development program. To encourage greater diversification and investment in the northern economy, the government will increase the funds available to small business development corporations and will broaden the eligibility for SBDC investments in the north.

The government also proposes a five-year, \$40-million, cost-shared program to replace the eastern Ontario subsidiary agreement. This program would support projects in the agricultural, tourism and forestry industries. These initiatives, in conjunction with specific programs for the efficient management of our tourism and forestry resources and for the support of agriculture in Ontario, will help generate new employment and economic opportunities in all regions of the province.

This government is convinced these programs and efficient management of our economy will help us create 200,000 new jobs in the province this year. The fact that we have been able to create more than 330,000 jobs in the past two years demonstrates that we have the capacity to create the jobs the people of Ontario need.

The government is determined that not only will the people of this province have the jobs they need but also the principles of employment equity and fairness will be respected in the work place. It is for that reason this throne speech proposes some 12 measures to improve safety in the work place and to strengthen the rights of employees.

While all these reforms are significant, the one issue that has attracted the most public attention of late is the issue of compensation equity. The principle of equal pay for work of equal value has been endorsed by all parties of this Legislature. However, considerable confusion exists as to precisely how this principle could be implemented in the work place.

I suggest that in the throne speech the government has outlined a sensible approach for the application of this principle to the public and private sectors. With the assistance of the compensation equity commission, the implementation of equal pay for work of equal value in the provincial public sector will serve as a valuable test case and demonstration project and provide us with the opportunity to identify and rectify any problems with implementation before pursuing a broader application in the public sector.

To my mind, it would be reckless and irresponsible for government to require, as a matter of public policy, that the private sector implement the principles and practices of compensation equity before first making every effort to ensure that the concept was clearly defined and fully comprehended by all parties affected.

There is every reason for confidence that the public discussion on equal pay for work of equal value to be initiated by the compensation equity commission will result in the development of a workable and effective method of implementing principles of compensation equity in a fair and affordable manner in all sectors of our economy.

This government will also ask this House to support measures to ensure that every person in this province has an adequate income during his or her retirement years. The proposed Pension Benefits Act will provide for earlier vesting of pension entitlement, assured pension portability, improved survivor benefits and other methods which, while of benefit to all pension plan participants, will be of special benefit to women and individuals who change jobs.

The government of Ontario has played a leading role in the national debate on pension reform, and many of the province's recommendations are reflected in the recently announced amendments to the federal government's Pension Benefits Standards Act.

4:30 p.m.

It is my hope that this government will continue to press for the adoption of inflation protection methods for pension plans. The position of this province has always been that there should be some form of inflation protection for pensioners. In the past, this government has proposed that inflation protection be provided to at least 60 per cent of the rate of increase in the consumer price index. This strikes me as a most reasonable proposal and one that should be adopted to ensure that the value and security of a pension are not undercut by inflation. The government should be encouraged to argue forcefully for this option in its discussions on

pension reform with other governments and with the private sector.

While we are convinced that economic growth provides the key to job creation and the improvement of social services, we will not permit growth to be achieved at the cost of the degradation of Ontario's environment and natural heritage. The quality of our environment must be maintained and protected. In response to that concern, this House will be asked to support 12 major initiatives which will augment and expand this province's environmental protection legislation.

Among other things, this assembly will be asked to support the establishment of a \$100-million environmental protection fund to finance the cleanup of waste sites, the creation of a new investigation and enforcement branch to increase our ability to identify and prosecute those who violate our laws, and the establishment of a \$20-million beach protection fund, all announced in the speech from the throne.

I am aware that there are those who have suggested these measures represent nothing more than a deathbed conversion of an administration that they would have us believe has long been indifferent to environmental protection. There are those who prefer not to believe the statement made in the throne speech that this province "has in place the most extensive and rigorous environmental laws of all the industrial jurisdictions in North America."

Mr. McClellan: Who told you that?

Mr. O'Connor: I will get to that.

There are those-sitting right over there-who do not wish to recognize that no other jurisdiction on this continent has done more to research and control the acid rain problem than Ontario.

For the benefit of those individuals, I refer to a report card on the environmental and conservation programs and the environmental assessment laws of the Canadian provinces prepared and released by the Canadian Nature Federation in the spring of this year. The CNF said its report card was "really an indication of a government's commitment to environmental protection."

Some members of this House may be dismayed to learn that the government that received the highest mark from the CNF, the government that emerged as being the most concerned with environmental protection, was none other than the Ontario government.

Mr. McClellan: Where were all those people on May 2?

Mr. O'Connor: Shall we name any other names?

There is no question that if the measures the government has proposed in the throne speech are adopted and implemented, we will improve significantly on our already successful record on environmental protection.

In that the two parties opposite have also advocated such steps as the creation of an environmental superfund, the proclamation of the spills bill and tougher fines and penalties for violators, we could reasonably expect that they would lend this program their enthusiastic support. We seek it, ask it and expect it of them.

This province's strong economy and record of effective public sector management have enabled the government of Ontario to provide its citizens with a broad range of high-quality, accessible, social, education and health services. These factors will enable this government to effect further improvements to the services it supports through 25 reforms which may be implemented without major tax increases and without placing an onerous burden of debt on future generations.

In the education field the government intends to increase, through the general legislative grants, the province's share of public school financing to ensure that the costs of maintaining excellence in the system are not borne by the property taxpayers. The government will also introduce legislation to extend full and equitable funding for the secondary separate school component of our public school system. This government has undertaken to provide those members of the public who wish to express their views on this legislation with the opportunity to do so, free from any arbitrary time constraint.

The government has again given its assurance that non-Roman Catholic teachers will have fair access to employment and tenure in Roman Catholic schools and that the extension of funding will not compromise in any way its commitment to public schools generally.

Again, in that both the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party have publicly expressed full support for the extension of funding to secondary separate schools, above the grade 10 level, it is hoped that this House will be able to successfully address this complex issue.

The government has also indicated it will undertake a major reform of the way in which this province finances its health care system. As members are aware, the health care system in our province is financed through general tax revenues and Ontario health insurance plan premiums, although the latter cover less than 20 per cent of the total health care bill.

The government will freeze OHIP premiums at their current level and will increase premium assistance. These measures will be of direct benefit to low-income families and to those 2.7 million Ontarians who already receive some form of government premium assistance.

Having worked with senior citizen volunteer agencies in my own riding for approximately 15 years, I was very pleased that the government declared its intention to appoint a minister for the elderly to co-ordinate and consolidate all services and programs for the elderly currently provided by its ministries and agencies.

I think members will agree it is important that we act now to address the public policy challenges that will result from the demographic shift towards an ever-ageing population. The assignment to one minister of the responsibility for services for senior citizens could improve the design, implementation and delivery of programs and services.

The announcement that significant new funds will be allocated to the homemakers program is also very welcome. In the past fiscal year, this government invested \$5.7 million in home support services and spent \$7.2 million in support of the homemakers program. This was money well spent.

These programs not only help to keep senior citizens and the elderly in their own homes where they can lead independent lives but also help to reduce the cost of institutional care that would otherwise be incurred.

Also, this government is to be commended for promising to protect senior citizens from any income loss they might suffer as a result of the modification of the indexation of old age security payments, which was introduced in the May federal budget.

I have touched on only a few of the more than 90 different initiatives, programs and reforms which this government proposed in the speech from the throne. I have not made mention, for example, of the \$100-million quality education fund which this government would establish to support post-secondary education, nor have I mentioned the rent review initiatives, the \$40-million farm operating credit assistance program or the rural employment assistance program.

Interjection.

Mr. O'Connor: The honourable member noticed. Good for him.

Time does not allow for even a partial review of the many legal and procedural reforms which this government has proposed to make our justice system more responsive, our Legislature more effective and our public service more accountable and efficient. No doubt these and other issues will be addressed by members of all three parties during the course of this debate. However, I believe the proposals I have had the opportunity to address demonstrate that this government has developed a prudent and progressive agenda for Ontario in the next two years.

4:40 p.m.

This administration has articulated a strategy that will enable this province to achieve a sustained growth and will create 200,000 new jobs in this province this year. Those goals will be attained without abandoning our commitment to responsible public sector management which has given this province, in per capita terms, the lowest deficit, the smallest and most efficient public service in the country, and a triple-A credit rating.

This government has proposed major reforms of our social and environmental policies that will help improve the quality of life for all our citizens. We have put forward for the approval of this assembly new measures that will give all the people of this province an equal opportunity to participate in the economic, social and political life of our community.

This government has proposed a program for action which, because it speaks to the needs and interests of the people of this province, will have the support of the people of this province. Should our Liberal and New Democratic friends take the time to review seriously the agenda the government has put before this House, they will find there is much in it they can support.

Through the throne speech we do not offer the members opposite, nor do we seek, an entente cordiale such as they have negotiated between and among themselves. What we do offer is the opportunity to work together to implement a responsible and progressive program for the social and economic betterment of this province. What we do offer is the opportunity for all members of this assembly to engage in a process of full and open consensual decision-making and debate, a process governed only by the mandate we have received from the voters and our common interest in building a better future for the people of this province.

Mrs. Marland: It is a great pleasure and a privilege for me to second the speech from the throne. The speech is a sound and progressive document. It proposes change and growth based on the strengths of our people and our economy. I believe it is an appropriate response to the needs

of the 1980s and gives the kind of direction our people want.

This is my second day in this Legislature. I want to take this opportunity to thank the people of Mississauga South for their confidence in electing me. I shall strive always to be worthy of their support and trust.

I would also like to thank someone else, my predecessor Mr. Doug Kennedy. Doug Kennedy has represented Mississauga South for 18 years. His family has roots sunk deep in the public and business life of Mississauga and Peel region going back to 1919 when his uncle Tom Kennedy began his 36 years as a member of this House, including being Premier.

Doug is highly respected in Mississauga, as is his brother Harold, who is a city and Peel region councillor. I know Doug has many friends here as well. Doug Kennedy set a high standard for himself when he entered public life. He has lived up to that standard and has set an example of dedication and commitment that I hope to follow.

It is customary for members of the provincial parliament to speak at this time about their ridings. I certainly will take advantage of this opportunity. I am proud of Mississauga. I have served in the municipal government for 11 years; four on the public school board and seven on the city and region of Peel council. I have watched my city grow to our present population of 350,000.

May I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that Mississauga is still a city on the move. In fact, we have just celebrated our 10th anniversary, and in that period we have had 100 per cent population growth.

People used to think of Mississauga as a suburb of Metro Toronto, but this is no longer the case. Five years ago the majority of Mississauga workers did commute. Today Mississauga is a centre of business and industry in its own right. Today Mississauga is a city that people commute to rather than commute from. More than half the people who live in Mississauga work there as well.

Mississauga is the home of new growth industries. In 1984 alone, our commercial and industrial growth exceeded \$176 million, while residential development surpassed \$186 million. We are the international headquarters of Northern Telecom and we have the leaders in computer technologies, such as Control Data and Sperry.

Mississauga is the location of our province's investment in biotechnology, Allelix. We are also home to the Sheridan Park research community, helping business and industry throughout

Ontario develop new products and processes. Of course, Atomic Energy of Canada is also in Mississauga, along with the head office of Dupont, Canon and the Nissan automobile

company.

Mississauga is a growing city—in fact, the fastest-growing city in Canada today. We are sharing the pattern of growth that is found throughout Ontario thanks to the sound management of Progressive Conservatives. For example, thanks to this government's commercial area improvement program, the Streetsville, Clarkson and Port Credit business improvement areas are implementing major renovations and facelifts to their downtown business and retail sections.

The throne speech continues this tradition of sound management in positive and progressive fashion. This speech contains programs to work with people, not to restrict them. This speech gives our people the direction they want in order to broaden their horizons and have the chance to succeed on their own terms. This speech tells the people of Ontario that we believe in them. We are giving the private sector the support and the confidence to create 200,000 new jobs this year. Job creation and job security are key concerns. Why? Because joblessness is still too high. We can do better.

This speech gives us the chance to show real leadership and bring about a real improvement in unemployment. This speech displays the faith the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) has in our province and our people. We believe the potential of our province is limitless. We believe our people, given the skills and the opportunity, will create the jobs, the growth and the prosperity we need and have come to expect.

Let it be clearly understood that a strong economy is good not just for business; a strong economy is good for people as well. A strong economy is not just a matter of trade and technology; it is a fundamental instrument of social policy. Let others talk about dividing up the economic pie into thinner and thinner pieces. Our goal is to increase the size of the pie and to provide a greater share for all.

4:50 p.m.

Social programs simply cannot substitute for policies that result in sound, sustainable and appropriate growth. The throne speech underlines this point well. Social advance without a strong economy would be a cruel illusion and would only add to the deficit. Social advance without the economic power to drive it would be little more than a practical joke on those who are the most vulnerable in our communities. Social

advance without economic advance would be an irresponsible policy that can only result in hurt rather than healing.

The strong performance of our economy is a great social achievement. It creates opportunities for the disadvantaged to advance. It helps families gain the means to educate their children, for the average worker to achieve the security of home ownership and an adequate pension.

A strong economy has enabled government to raise funds for positive public works, to raise funds for programs ranging from health care to scientific exploration, as well as care for the needy.

After all, what is the goal of a strong economy? A strong economy is encouraged not just to create more and more. The goal of a strong economy is to win a greater measure of social justice for our people.

This is a Progressive Conservative viewpoint and that is the goal of this speech from the throne. We intend to give all Ontarians the tools to get control of their own lives, to set meaningful personal goals and to participate in the growth of our communities to whatever extent they wish.

This speech establishes a new measure of justice and opportunity for workers, for women, for senior citizens, for young people and for the unemployed. This speech re-establishes the Progressive Conservative commitment that our province is a place of opportunity for everyone.

Building on the achievement of past governments, our Premier is putting us on a new plateau for growth, opportunity and individual respect.

Let us take a look at the work place. The people of Ontario look to us to ensure that the benefits of labour are fairly shared and that our laws keep up with the changing realities of the work place and the job, with 11 concrete proposals to strengthen security and justice at work.

Security and justice are especially of concern for women. Outdated barriers and attitudes to women in the work place put down not only women, they put down us all. They make no sense and they are not fair. Women have their contributions to make. To unnecessarily limit their chances for promotion and responsibility only robs our province of the insight, potential and energy that women bring to the work place.

Two years ago, the federal government appointed Judge Abella to study employment opportunities in 11 federally owned corporations and crown corporations. This study was to take in four groups: native people, the disabled, visible minorities and women.

Judge Abella was charged with the job of devising measures to remedy the effect of past discriminations. Judge Abella's report was released last October. It contained 117 recommendations designed to roll away the barriers that limit and restrict career opportunities.

Partly in response to this report and in response to our own needs, the Ontario government will take action to provide more opportunity for economic and social advancement for these special groups.

Ontario will advance employment equity programs in the public sector. These programs will not only include crown agencies, but will also extend to those who receive transfer payments, such as hospitals, school boards, municipalities and post-secondary institutions.

The new Ministry of Skills Development will consolidate employment and training services for women, minorities and the disabled. Our goal is equity in the work place. Our goal is to ensure that everyone has the chance to participate and to make a contribution. This is our goal and this is how we will achieve it.

This government will appoint a compensation equity commission. The commission will be a real working body with representatives from business, labour and government. The commissioners will immediately set to work to abolish pay inequities for women and will assist the province in bringing in equal pay for work of equal value in the Ontario Public Service, in crown corporations and in the broader public service, commencing March 31, 1986.

This government will set up a policy of contract preference for those who do business with Queen's Park valued at \$200,000 a year or more and have in effect or undertake to implement effective employment equity programs for visible minorities, native people, the disadvantaged and women.

We Progressive Conservatives are proud of the contributions we have made in securing equality and justice for women in the work place. From the creation of our first human rights legislation in the early 1950s, the drafting of the Ontario Human Rights Code, the setting up of the women's bureau in the Ministry of Labour, up to today with the securing of the Charter of Rights and the appointment of a Minister responsible for Women's Issues, we have provided leadership for women who work.

The federal Charter of Rights will act vigorously to enforce and extend accepted principles of equality throughout Ontario. Anything less than equal pay for equal work is clearly discrimination. Anything less is not only unfair, it is also illegal. Current equal pay legislation in our province provides equal pay for equal work. The Premier has committed his government to bringing in equal pay for work of equal value in the provincial public service. This will be a testing ground to develop a fair, workable system.

Since 1983, Progressive Conservatives have tried to get widespread support to broaden the current equal pay provisions. We have tried to open the door and to bring in reform in a meaningful way, step by step. Others have condemned this sensible approach and demanded more radical action. We continue to believe it would be premature, unhelpful and counterproductive for Queen's Park to define immediately what value in the work place means. That would only result in division and not in the harmony and spirit of co-operation that is essential to the successful introduction of equal pay for work of equal value.

As a result, we have given the compensation equity commission the responsibility to encourage wide public debate and discussion on this issue. Equal value legislation strikes right at the heart of the contract established between an individual worker and his or her employer. This legislation cannot be introduced without widespread public understanding and support.

I believe the government's approach is a sensible one. It will begin the debate that is needed on this issue in the place where its effect will be the greatest, in the private job market of Ontario. The best solution for equal value must come from the people themselves and not be enforced from on high. We will then be able to progress, having the experience gained from introducing equal value legislation in the public service, to erect a fair, reasonable and competitive framework for work and compensation.

5 p.m.

However, wages are not our only concern. The Premier and the government will continue the comprehensive review of the Workers' Compensation Act. We will see continued action to ensure that compensation is fair, that pensions are reasonable and that adjustment and reinstatement rights for injured workers are protected.

Working with other senior governments in Confederation, we will bring down a pension benefits act this session. This act will include the vesting of pensions, assured pension portability, minimum employer contributions, improved survivor benefits, both before and after retirement, and the extension of private pension coverage to part-time workers as well as the removal of

sexual discrimination in the calculation of pension benefits. We will work with governments and private business to ensure pensioners receive some protection from inflation.

Let me say at this point that this government is concerned about the impact the federal budget will have on the income of our seniors. These are the people who helped build our communities. They deserve justice. The government will increase its tax grant program for seniors to help compensate them for inflation-related losses in income. We will do more than this. We will make strong recommendations to the government of Canada to compensate fully those pensioners receiving the guaranteed income supplement from the effects of inflation. We will do justice to our pensioners and to all who contribute to pension programs.

We will strengthen justice in the work place. We will strengthen job security. We will protect unorganized workers through amendments to the Employment Standards Act. We will give unorganized workers with three or more years of service the right to contest an unjust dismissal before an impartial tribunal.

We will provide greater protection from technological change through the Labour Relations Act. We will ensure workers have advance knowledge of all technical improvements. We will also frame right-to-know legislation to provide confidence to Ontario workers that hazardous substances in the work place will be identified and appropriate action taken to ensure their welfare.

These are the 11 steps the government will take to bring a greater measure of security and equity to the work place. These are good, basic reforms and they will be introduced in a responsible, mature manner. This government will work with all partners in the marketplace to ensure justice for all workers, for all employers and for the community at large.

We are committed to ensuring an equal chance for women, for the disabled, for minorities, indeed for all who have a contribution to make. That is our commitment. The members can see it in the proposals for the work place and also in our proposals for health care. This government will establish an advisory task force to review health care services for women in Ontario. Women have unique health care needs. This distinguished task force will ensure that those needs are served and served well.

This government will extend our assistive devices programs to help disabled adults better pursue their goals in the community. This government will appoint a minister for the elderly to supervise the full consolidation of all programs set up to serve our senior citizens. We will develop an overall plan and a comprehensive network of services to provide for seniors living in their own homes.

We will develop a far-reaching, community-based care system that will expand community programs and limit the growth of unnecessary institutional services so that our seniors who want to remain active in the community and family life can do so in a manner that respects their dignity and their life-long contribution to the community. This government will provide significant new funds to our homemakers program to increase services available at home, not just for the elderly but for the disabled as well.

Housing continues to be a key concern of this government's social programming. Despite the challenges of high inflation and population growth over the last 10 years, the public and private sector have achieved more than a modest degree of success in keeping pace with consumer demands, but the success of our economy means new growth. One can see that every day throughout Mississauga. In my riding of Mississauga South new communities, new neighbourhoods and new residential growth are adding to the Mississauga skyline.

There is housing in Ontario, but we must ensure there is an adequate supply of housing for people with moderate incomes. This is especially important with rental housing. This month we will ask the Legislature to consider basic reforms to the Residential Tenancies Act. These reforms will reduce to four per cent the maximum rent increase permitted without review.

We will establish a practical rent registry. We will do this and more, keeping in mind the needs of the landlord, especially the small landlord, and not create excessive regulations that will only result in harm to both tenants and the community as a whole.

A key concern is the supply of rental accommodation. This supply must be expanded. As a result, this government has announced a five-year, \$400-million rental supply fund to encourage private, co-operative, nonprofit and convert-to-rent projects.

The popular Ontario housing rehabilitation program will be reintroduced and the systems will be provided to help those who are now tenants to purchase their first home. These programs will help provide the rental and housing accommodation our people need. More than this, these programs will provide a sound base for

growth in the construction industry. They will mean jobs as well as housing.

One of the dreams that newcomers to our province cherish is the chance to own a home. This is a dream they share with all Ontarians. Our policies are geared to make that dream a reality. Ontario is still the province of opportunity.

Mr. Martel: Despite the Tories. 5:10 p.m.

Mrs. Marland: I am glad the member is back.

A basic strength of our province is the fact that Queen's Park has defended and continues to defend individual rights and liberties. Any advance, any progress that comes at the expense of individual dignity and freedom is an advance made at too high a cost. What is the role of government, if not to provide for the betterment of the individual and the basic building block of our society—the family?

I am pleased this throne speech continues to show leadership in the fight against family violence. The Ministry of Community and Social Services has already funded the creation of a centre to study an act against family violence. Forty emergency shelters for battered women and children have been set up across Ontario. In the last provincial budget the funding for shelter services was increased by \$3.5 million. Mississauga South is participating in the fight against family violence, thanks to the great work of three energetic women.

Mississauga is the home of Interim Place. This is the first hostel for battered women and their children in Peel region. The program at Interim Place is supported by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and these programs do work. Already, our Mississauga facility is full constantly, and we are in desperate need of an additional facility in Peel today.

Building on the solid foundation of research and the experience of operating shelters, this government will expand public education activities to ensure that all Ontarians know family violence is not to be tolerated.

We also are continuing to fight against drinking and driving. Our public education programs will be stepped up during the summer months.

We also will address the important subject of adoption information in a discreet and responsible manner that will respect the needs and rights of all individuals and families involved. A commissioner will review current provisions affecting the disclosure of adoption information. Recommendations should be available for the consideration of the legislation this fall.

Also, we will take action to assist the families of divorced parents. A special office will be established to ensure effective enforcement of maintenance and custody orders. I think it is shameless that anyone would abandon the care of a family to the community at large when he or she has the resources to provide for it. This special office will ensure this basic responsibility is enforced.

Justice for women, for the disabled, for the disadvantaged and for senior citizens is the promise of the program outlined in the throne speech. But what about our unemployed youth? It is a fact learned from hard experience that modern economies do not and will not provide acceptable levels of employment by themselves. Jobs can only be created by purposeful government action; that point is beyond debate. What is debatable, however, is the means government uses to create jobs, to provide opportunities and to give people the chance to build their own independence as responsible, self-supporting members of the community.

Fundamentally, governments cannot create wealth. All governments can do is shift wealth around. But responsible government action can set in motion events that will encourage the creation of wealth in the community, and that wealth will lead to new investment, new growth and new jobs.

I agree with the statement in the throne speech that our job creation efforts should be directed towards the small and medium-sized Canadian businesses. Not only do these businesses create the lion's share of the jobs, they are an integral part of a vibrant community and our best expression of home-grown Canadian enterprise.

In Mississauga companies employing nine people or fewer comprise two thirds of the business activity of the city. For a number of years Ontario has been supporting small business through small business development corporations. We have provided these businesses with a means of getting the capital they need to grow. Through the student venture capital program we have successfully launched many young people on careers in the business world.

During the past campaign we spoke of our intention to boost employment in small businesses through a reduction in their tax burden. We intend to give small businesses the strength to put their earnings back to work, to create the jobs we need, the investment we need and the growth we are looking for. These new jobs will mean new opportunity for our young people to start lives of their own.

Through the new Ministry of Skills Development we will continue the good work started by the Ontario skills fund and Ontario Youth Opportunities. The response by the business community to these programs has been pleasing. This response has provided us with the incentive to go further. Since the private sector has demonstrated its willingness to provide greater opportunities for the unemployed, we will budget an additional \$100 million to the Ministry of Skills Development to take action in four key areas.

First, public institutions and industry will provide a further 75,000 new training and upgrading opportunities. Second, high school graduates will benefit from a further 30,000 work experience opportunities. Third, firm links will be established between private business and our secondary schools to provide co-operative education experience and prepare our young people for life in the working world. Fourth, a \$10-million training access fund will ensure that practical barriers such as transportation, accommodation costs and child care do not stand between an energetic worker or individual and the chance to improve his job skills.

Financial assistance will be accorded on the basis of need, to ensure a fair access to training opportunities. Let me point out that this undertaking is in addition to the 7,500 subsidized child care spaces and other child care programs recently announced by this government.

The throne speech has addressed many key issues. All parties in this Legislature will agree that these issues warrant the attention of the provincial government. All will agree that these issues are of concern to the people of Ontario. We have had an extensive program for environmental action, a key concern for Mississauga with its large shoreline and lakefront development projects at Port Credit. We will see the spills bill become law. This is of particular concern to Mississauga. We do not want another accident and evacuation like the one we experienced in 1979 following the train derailment.

We have action for women, action in the work place, in the courts and with pensions. We have action for seniors. We have a renewed commitment to ensuring seniors have the chance to continue to live in the community and pursue active lives. We have action for young people with new training programs in the schools and improved job opportunities with small businesses. We are taking action. We are establishing a direction for growth, for justice and for equity.

Let me remind all members that none of this work will be easy. It requires sympathy, under-

standing and support. It requires sensitive leadership, the kind of leadership that is willing and ready to listen to the people rather than marching in lockstep with some prescriptive agenda or rigid philosophic viewpoint.

Real reform in Ontario has not come from coercion but from compassion and consensus. Real reform comes from building bridges of understanding between all partners in our varied and widespread community. The simple passage of a law or a series of laws will not overcome the habits or attitudes of a lifetime. Understanding and education must come first. Bridges must be built. A moderate and balanced approach is essential in setting new directions. This speech gives people the chance to become independent of the state; it sets up a program that liberates their energies. You see, on this side of the House we are more concerned with creating opportunities, with creating a chance for people to be the very best they can, to test their strengths and abilities to the limit.

We are faced with a great challenge in our province. That challenge is changing technologies and changing patterns of world trade. Only by liberating the energies of our people will we have a chance to advance fully and establish ourselves as a new economic power in global markets. Only by liberating our energies can we sustain the growth that has given Queen's Park the revenue to take action in fields such as the environment, services for women and children and improved pension packages for the elderly. Only through a strong economy can we move ahead with the kind of social reform our people want and need and deserve.

The decisions we make here are important decisions. The laws we make here are very important. They affect the lives of millions of our fellow Ontarians. They affect the pattern of growth in our province and throughout Canada as a whole. The speech from the throne is a responsible and responsive package. It shows that we have listened to the people of Ontario. We heard what they had to say on May 2. We heard their message and we are now putting forward a progressive program that deserves the support of this minority Legislature.

What does a minority Legislature mean? It means that all parties should work together. We Progressive Conservatives, as the party that has won the majority of seats in the last election, are willing to compromise. We are willing to make this Legislature work. Our throne speech shows that. We have not been the government of this province under the leadership of five great

Premiers by accident. Our mandate from the people of Ontario has been renewed through 13 elections. We won the support of the people for one reason: we earned it.

We have no apologies to make about our record. There is a reason why we are the premier province in Canada, and that is true success. This throne speech builds on that record in a very real way. It is a good example of what being Progressive Conservative means. It is a sound document for our times and provides fundamental leadership for the future.

I am proud to be a Canadian. My family and I are privileged to live in this great province of Ontario with its wealth of blessings and opportunities, and as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party, I am proud to serve in this government. I urge my fellow members to join with me and vote for acceptance of the throne speech.

On motion by Mr. Nixon, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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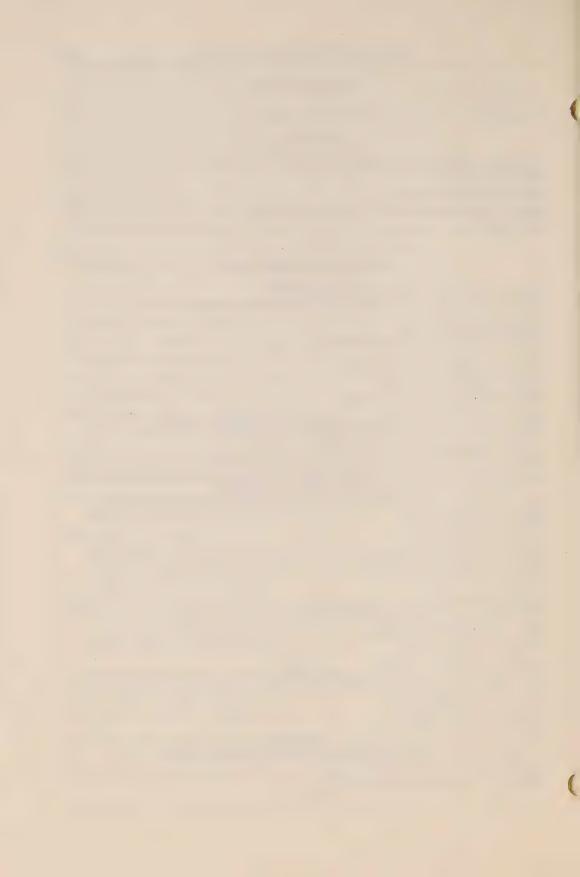
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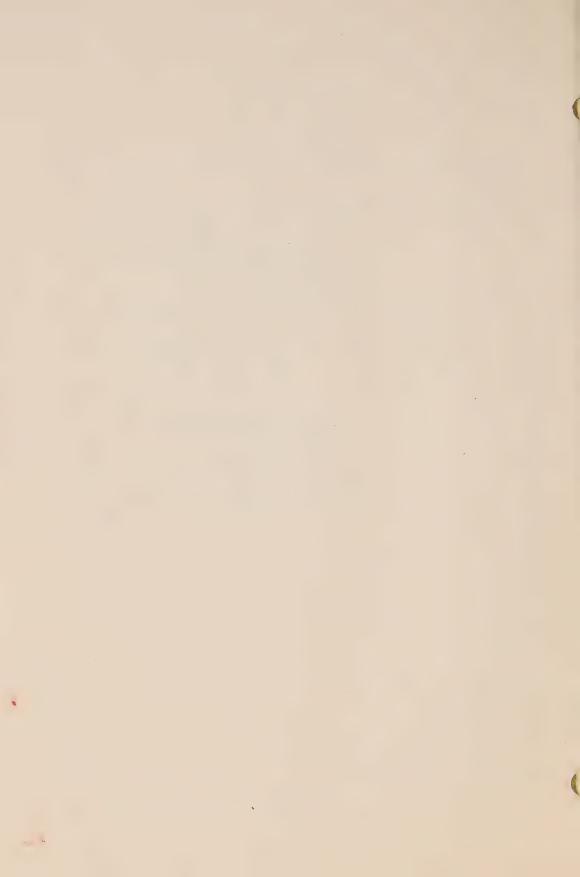
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No. 3

Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 33rd Parliament Friday, June 7, 1985

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, June 7, 1985

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that I have laid upon the table copies of two orders in council appointing the following members as commissioners to the Board of Internal Economy:

The Speaker, who shall be chairman; the Honourable James K. Gordon, Minister of Government Services, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council from among the members of the executive council; the Honourable Sam Cureatz, Minister without Portfolio, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council from among the members of the executive council; the Honourable Robert C. Mitchell. Minister without Portfolio, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council from among the members of the executive council; Jack McLellan Johnson, appointed by the caucus of the government; Robert Fletcher Nixon, appointed by the caucus of the official opposition; and Elie Walter Martel, appointed by the caucus of the New Democratic Party of Ontario.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

OXFORD REGIONAL CENTRE

Hon. Mr. Eves: Today I would like to bring the honourable members up to date on allegations concerning physical abuse of residents at the Oxford Regional Centre for the developmentally handicapped.

This matter has been of particular concern to the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven), who met with me just this week on this subject. I would like to share with all members a brief summary of events and subsequent action taken by ministry staff.

On January 31, 1984, a resident of Oxford received a bruised eye and a bleeding nose. Rumours circulated at Oxford that an employee had struck a resident. An investigation was immediately undertaken. During that time, my deputy minister received an anonymous letter with further accusations. Within weeks, the Ontario Provincial Police charged an employee

at Oxford with assault. Initially suspended, he was convicted of assault and subsequently dismissed from his job.

In view of the serious nature of this incident, the deputy minister launched a detailed internal investigation at Oxford conducted by an independent ministry team. Their objective was to investigate specific allegations of abuse, examine the centre's procedures for investigating abuse and look into staff attitudes concerning abuse. That investigation, which made a number of recommendations, was completed last year and I am pleased to say that all recommendations have been acted upon.

These recommendations included an enhancement of staff training at Oxford to ensure the continued awareness of abuse procedures, behaviour management and appropriate handling of stress and medical concerns; the communication to all staff at Oxford of the ministry's firm policy concerning failure to report or investigate alleged abuse; and the establishment of a standing committee on resident abuse to investigate all reported cases of abuse.

This committee, representative of faculty staff, reports directly to the administrator of the centre. Since the establishment of this committee, any allegations of abuse within the centre have been referred there and dealt with fully and satisfactorily.

As the members are aware, public institutions inspection panels composed of community members regularly tour publicly funded facilities, and last month a tour of Oxford county included Oxford Regional Centre. The report of the panel, which dealt with a wide range of issues concerning the facility, contained in its concluding paragraph allegations of abuse of residents and intimidation of staff. Because of the hearsay nature of this information, the belief that it could have been based on prior incidents already dealt with and that it was presented in a generalized, unspecific manner, there was insufficient information to conduct a detailed investigation within the mechanism of the centre's standing committee on resident abuse.

As minister, I have made inquiries about this matter with our regional and facility staff. The seriousness of the allegations and the absence of specific details have cast suspicion unfairly on all members of the Oxford staff. Therefore, I have asked the deputy minister to initiate a full investigation. On June 3, senior inspection and investigation staff from the ministry's head office were dispatched to Oxford.

Finally, let me assure this House that in any case where there is a question of abuse in one of our facilities, that issue will be dealt with immediately and thoroughly. The health and wellbeing of our residents in our facilities are the ministry's foremost priority.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I would have hoped that when this statement was being read we also would have received not only the statement but also the internal document on the investigation that was done by the ministry, which has not been available to the critics.

Hon. Mr. Eves: The internal report that was done last year has not been made public for the very good reason that in that report are specific allegations against specific individuals, all of which, except for the case of the one we all know about, proved to be totally unfounded. We are not about to malign the integrity or character of those individuals named in the report. We are prepared, however, to provide a summary of the 22 recommendations in the report and what has been done with them to date.

ACID RAIN

Hon. Ms. Fish: I want to inform the House about our latest actions to combat acid rain.

My ministry is proceeding with regulations that will ensure that Inco Ltd. meets its commitments to achieve significant reductions in acidic emissions from its Sudbury smelter. As honourable members are aware, Inco pledged at its recent annual meeting to reduce its sulphur emissions by 50 per cent from 1984 levels by 1994. The regulations we are drafting are designed to make certain that Inco will meet these targets.

The Inco and Falconbridge smelters in Sudbury, between them, halved their sulphuric emissions between 1970 and 1980 and have reduced them by a further 25 per cent since that time. These controls for further reductions will ensure that the Sudbury smelters will have a reduced impact on the central Ontario environment.

10:10 a.m.

In February, Ontario pledged at a federal-provincial ministers' meeting to reduce its total sulphur emissions by 53 per cent by 1994.

However, the brutal reality is that our actions alone will not be enough to save our lakes and forests from the ravages of acid rain.

About 50 per cent of Ontario's acid rain is caused by sulphur dioxide emissions drifting across from the United States. Another 20 per cent of Ontario's acid rain comes from sources beyond Ontario in Canada and from other world sources. Clearly, we cannot bring down acid rain levels sufficiently unless we get matching action from the United States.

That is the message I will present personally tonight to Senator Edward Kennedy, who will be speaking at a dinner hosted by the Canadian Acid Precipitation Foundation. Senator Kennedy is a strong supporter of acid rain control legislation in the United States Senate. Like Ontario, his state of Massachusetts is suffering from acid rain generated beyond its boundaries.

Next week, I will also make a presentation at a meeting in Ottawa at which the Canadian and American special envoys on acid rain will hear submissions. The envoys, former Premier William Davis and his American counterpart, Drew Lewis, are working on the problem of acid rain at the request of Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan.

I would like to turn now to actions we are undertaking to save our lakes while we work out a long-term solution to the transboundary impact. We are beginning a lake restoration program. The government plans to restore the fish populations of acidified recreational lakes in the pre-Cambrian shield by liming and restocking. The program is called Operation Shield. The program derives from studies in which we have proved that the effects of acid rain can be reversed.

For example, we limed Bowland Lake near Sudbury. Restocked trout are thriving now, 10 years after the last of its native trout were wiped out. The lakes to be treated will be chosen on a priority basis from about 200 lakes that have lost almost all their native sport fish and would otherwise never recover, even with reduced acid loadings.

This leads me to report briefly on one of the most significant studies we have undertaken. The study is of 209 lakes in the Sudbury area. It provides the first scientific evidence that acidified lakes can begin to recover if sulphur deposition is reduced. The study, over a nine-year period, showed that as sulphur emissions are reduced the acidity levels decrease in the water.

For years, we have been hearing from opponents of acid rain controls in the United

States that more studies are needed. This study demonstrates conclusively with sound scientific evidence that recovery from acidification can be accomplished by emission reduction. That has been proved in the Sudbury area. I have no doubt that the findings can be applied across the province and to the northeastern American states. I trust Senator Kennedy will take that finding back to his counterparts in the United States Senate.

I remind honourable members that the federal Minister of the Environment, Suzanne Blais-Grenier, announced at the February meeting I referred to that Ottawa would take the lead in funding reductions by smelters. We are prepared to assist her department to achieve those goals as soon as possible. Our lakes and forests cannot wait much longer.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: I ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing some distinguished visitors in the Speaker's gallery: Senator Arthur J. Miller, Jr., minority leader of the Michigan state Senate; Representative Dennis M. Dutko, Michigan House of Representatives; and Senator James A. Barcia, assistant minority whip of the Michigan state Senate. Please join me in welcoming our visitors.

GRAIN FINANCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order. It was my understanding from the response we received yesterday to our question on the R. B. McKinlay and Sons Ltd. insolvency that we might expect a statement from the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Stevenson). I wonder whether that statement is forthcoming, because the farmers can no longer tolerate the negligence on the part of the ministry in addressing the problem.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Speaking briefly on the member's point of order, the Minister of Agriculture and Food tells me he has the answer to the previous question and will give it later this morning in question period.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HYDRO RATES

Mr. Nixon: I have a question for the Premier pertaining to the Ontario Hydro rate increases announced some six to eight weeks ago.

How did the Premier persuade the present chairman of Hydro, who is well known for his independence and business acumen, to announce during the election campaign the proposals for Hydro rate increases for 1986 of only 3.6 per cent, when Hydro's own document, entitled 1985 Strategic Marketing Plan, indicates clearly that an increase of at least eight per cent in each of the next three years would be necessary to meet Hydro's responsibilities, particularly those associated with its \$23-billion debt?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The answer is very simple. I never talked to the chairman of Hydro about what his rate increases should be. The rate increase that was published, as I recall, was the decision of the board, not of the chairman. It was not influenced by the government.

Mr. Nixon: Since the Premier and his colleagues have expressed some concern about the credit rating of Ontario—and he knows himself that if the credit rating is susceptible to being changed, it is because of Hydro's profligate spending procedures—would he not agree, since Hydro's internal documents have indicated it needs a rate increase of eight per cent to meet its requirements, and since even last year, when its growth was five per cent, it requested a 10.3 per cent increase, that perhaps the announcement of a 3.6 per cent increase was intended to be helpful to the Premier, whether or not he considered it to be helpful, and in some respects was somewhat irresponsible?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I reject all of that. I point out that the credit rating, which the honourable member is trying to tie to Ontario Hydro, is not at all related to Ontario Hydro. If he ever has the opportunity-perish the thought-to go down to have a chat with the underwriters or the evaluators, the bond rating specialists, in New York City, he will find that they consider the current debt-to-equity ratio of Hydro and its income and coverage ratios all to be satisfactory.

They base the triple-A or whatever other rating we have for credit in the United States and in the bond markets of the world upon the affairs of the province, the way it runs its own budget, the predictions of future income and the predictions of future spending. Their most important criterion in the whole group is simply whether we are borrowing for current expense or for capital expense.

Mr. Nixon: Since the chairman of Hydro meets with the special advisers to the Premier-I guess he has breakfast in the Park Plaza on a regular basis, or something like that, according to the rumours we read in the Toronto press-will he not express some concern that the 3.6 per cent rate increase announced during the election campaign has been edging slowly upward again

as Ontario Hydro changes its position and moves back towards its original statement that eight per cent would be required?

Hon. F. S. Miller: First let me disabuse the member of that allegation, which I do not think is fair when the chairman is not here to defend himself. The chairman has not met with any group advising me since the election, period. He has seen me at times before that to advise me on Hydro.

ORGANIZED CRIME

Mr. Nixon: I have a question of the Attorney General relating to the convictions obtained recently in an \$80-million hashish and marijuana case. The judge, Mr. Justice Eugene Ewaschuk, is quoted in the press as indicating that this is an example of organized crime.

The Attorney General may recall that this matter has been raised regularly in the House, since the threat of organized crime has been a continuing matter of concern in this jurisdiction. The Attorney General may also recall the matter of a series of murders, bodies found in communities to the west of Toronto, was raised repeatedly in this House, and we were assured the Attorney General's special liaison group involving police forces from many levels had this matter under control.

Can the Attorney General report to the House on the efficiency of this group and why these problems associated with organized crime, particularly associated with drugs imported from the United States and other centres, continue to plague us?

10:20 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Obviously, the efficiencies of the group do not need any comment from me as Attorney General. The number of prosecutions and arrests and the discovery of these caches and supplies of illegal drugs speak for the effectiveness of the organization on the federal and provincial level to combat this criminal activity.

Mr. Nixon: The path of introduction comes across Lake Superior to Sault Ste. Marie in northern Ontario and then down into Muskoka in the Huntsville area, where there was a central cache of these drugs to be distributed. Since this case goes back to 1981, while we congratulate the Solicitor General (Mr. Gregory) on the efficacy of the arrests, we are aware this has been going on for many years and still there is no indication, since the judge referred to it as another case of organized crime, that it has been rooted out in any way.

Can the minister report to the House on the organization of the various police forces under his direction that have special responsibility in combating organized crime, which the judge says is still a problem with us?

Hon. Mr. Pope: The honourable member is aware of a North America-wide organization of police forces and prosecution forces that has been mobilized to fight this criminal activity, not only here in Ontario but also across Canada and North America. The member is as aware as I am of the multitude of arrests over the past couple of years and the accelerated investigation activity both in the United States and Canada with respect to drug trafficking and drug distribution activities. He is also aware of a multitude of prosecutions in Ontario and across North America. We are fighting together to root out this criminal activity.

Mr. Nixon: Since the minister is no doubt aware that crime experts believe the cases of arrest and conviction and the seizure of contraband material amount to less than 10 per cent of the total activity, can he indicate whether there is any stepping up of the program he and the Solicitor General share to combat organized crime in this jurisdiction?

Hon. Mr. Pope: We intend to continue to accelerate our investigation and prosecution activities with respect to drug trafficking activities in Ontario and we will do so in co-operation with all other police and court jurisdictions across North America. I am confident that when the member examines the record he will see there has been an acceleration of prosecutions and successful arrests in the past three years.

ACID RAIN

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Premier about the announcement made today by the Minister of the Environment (Ms. Fish) about Inco and acid rain.

In what has to be seen as an incredible example of government regulation by the private sector for the private sector, the minister announced today that since Inco has said it is going to reduce its acid gas emissions to a mere 1,000 tons a day by 1994, that is good enough for the government. All the government regulations are going to do is simply put Inco's program in place.

How can the Premier justify that kind of approach to environmental protection, when surely it is the job of government to use whatever means there are? Information is available in a federal-provincial task force report released five years ago that indicates Inco's acid gas emissions

could be reduced by 86 per cent. Why has it taken the government five years to come up with regulations that were written by the company itself?

Hon. F. S. Miller: First of all, it has not taken me five years. I have been in this House for only two days and not too long as Premier. The member knows full well I set that as one of my personal priorities and we are working on it.

Mr. Wildman: Was that not a Conservative government—

Hon. F. S. Miller: Just be quiet over there.

I would also suggest the member has missed a couple of points. The very determination of this ministry and this government to see the emissions of the largest single-point emitter in the world cut back is very much a function of our diligence and pressure.

As I recall, it has gone from 3,700 tons a day when I was Minister of Natural Resources—and that is only six or seven years ago—down to less than 1,000 tons now because of the pressure of this government to make sure they were searching for ways to reduce it and because of the pressure of the orders. The member should take great satisfaction in that. Would that our friends across the border would emulate Ontario's persistence.

Mr. Rae: That kind of Yankee-bashing by the Premier really does not suit him very well. Really, that kind of turnaround is not going to get him anywhere.

Mr. Speaker: I presume you have a supplementary.

Mr. Rae: Can the Premier confirm that all the minister is announcing today, the sum total of the aggressive, tough approach of his Ministry of the Environment, is simply that the government of Ontario is putting into place regulations that will allow Inco to do what Inco already stated publicly at its last annual general meeting it intended to do anyway? Why do we need a regulation if the government is not even going to do more than Inco was prepared to do on its own?

Hon. Mr. Pope: You do not want to regulate it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Indeed, that is exactly the question. Does the member really not want a regulation to put that in place?

I happen to live in the part of Ontario that is perhaps the most vulnerable to acidic precipitation; I think the member is aware of that. I cannot think of a single issue in the riding of Muskoka that concerns more people, many of whom, by the way, live in Toronto. I would suggest to the

member that we have taken action in the long run to make sure those emissions come down.

The Minister of the Environment signed an agreement with the other provinces of Canada a few months ago to see emissions across this country cut. The member heard the fact that only 50 per cent of the emissions are from across the border, 20 per cent from other sources and the balance from inside Ontario, but we are meeting our commitments here.

In addition, I hope the member noticed that we are taking action to restore lakes, which is of course critical in the process, to get back the recreational and other benefits that come from that kind of thing.

I am proud of the actions we have taken. We are asking others to recognize the seriousness of the problem. We are going to continue to fight both here and wherever we have to in order to make sure that the residents of Ontario are protected from acidic precipitation.

Mr. Rae: A federal-provincial task force report produced in 1982 shows it is technically and technologically feasible for Inco to reduce its emissions not by 50 per cent but by 86 per cent, and not by 1994 but in the next five years.

How can the Premier justify a second-best, half-baked approach that was written by the company for the company instead of an approach written by the people for the people, which is why we are supposed to have a Ministry of the Environment in Ontario?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The member can work himself up into whatever sweat he wants. The fact is that the pressure from our Ministry of the Environment, which I would say has been one of the most persistent, determined ministries of its type in the world, has been the cause for that change, not the opposite. I suggest the member consult with his friends from the area who represent that city and see whether they share so totally his conviction that we have not had an effect.

10:30 a.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Rae: I have another question for the Premier. It concerns the exchange we had yesterday about separate school funding extension.

Given the reality, which he is aware of, that motions of no confidence are going to be moved today, and that the vote is going to be held by agreement of the House leaders on June 18, is the Premier prepared to reconsider and agree that

whatever legislation is available now should be published and should be referred to a committee of the Legislature, which committee will be able to sit through the month of June, have hearings and let the people be heard?

I would like to ask whether he would reconsider that. I can tell him that proposal is made because it is in the interests of all parties to have this matter dealt with. I would appreciate it if the Premier would reconsider his remarks of vesterday and see whether we cannot get this matter to committee right away.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I agree with the member's last comment; it is in our interests to see it dealt with fairly. Before I refer to the Minister of Education (Mr. Grossman) to explain the process to the member, I simply say this is something we feel requires careful and thoughtful examination. I would like to refer that question to the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I might remind the leader of the third party that I have meetings set up next week with the major groups involved in this legislation. At that time, I will be sharing with them some of the options for the key sections of the legislation. Those groups represent all the major interests throughout the province and they will then be equipped with what they need to be equipped with in order to debate the bill with adequate information and knowledge when it is introduced. That sharing of options is something that has not been done to date and it will be an important part of that process.

If the leader of the third party, or perhaps second, wants to specify what approach he would take in the absence of having the kind of input I am going to take advantage of getting, there is no impediment to his doing that. He should feel free to do that. If he wants to share that and invite public input on that, he can go ahead.

One day he may see the difference between those of us whose words and draft legislation are seen out there to be a decision of governmentlegislation which may cause division if it is not carefully thought out-and the luxury those in opposition enjoy, temporarily perhaps, of not having the responsibilities of office. As long as we are over here, we are going to look after those responsibilities as carefully as we have done for a long time.

Mr. Foulds: You are the ones who are avoiding your responsibilities.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We are not.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Go ahead. No one is stopping you from doing it.

Mr. Rae: Since the Premier has referred this matter to the Minister of Education, I will put my supplementary to the same minister. I find it difficult to interpret what the minister has said as being anything other than a stall by the Tory party of its promise, some 359 days after the then Premier of this province announced policy on behalf of his party. The minister is not the only one who is meeting and consulting; all of us are meeting and consulting. Good heavens, we have all been doing this.

Given the reality that all party leaders, all critics of Education and all members of the Legislature have been meeting and discussing with their constituents, with different groups across the province and with the public, does the minister not think it is in the public interest now to get this matter before a committee and to allow the public to see the legislation and to come forward, not in the minister's office, not behind closed doors, but in public where we can all see the legislation and have a healthy debate and a clearing of the air? Does he not think that would be better?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I say clearly to the leader of the third party that if his concern is for having a healthy debate about this matter in open and in public, he is welcome to sit here for the balance of June. I will introduce the bill and we will have debate on the principle and on second reading. He can debate that legislation as long as he ought responsibly to debate it, instead of being in a hurry to dictate terms so he can get power. Is it power or is it a look at the legislation that the third party wants? Stand up and be counted.

Mr. Rae: The government has backed off. It is clear what is happening. The Tory party is in full retreat from a policy announced by the Premier of this province a year ago. That is what is happening today.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the honourable member have a final supplementary?

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask the Treasurer, the Minister of Education, whatever he may be at the moment-his temporary occupation of that post which I am sure he will enjoy for the two weeks remaining to him-a simple question. What he is basically saying is that if we want to have a full debate, it is only the Tory party that has a right to govern in Ontario.

That is exactly what the minister is saying. For two days in a row, that has been the message from the Tory party. What it has said to the people of the province is that if we want to have a debate on the issue, then we are going to have to let the Tories stay.

Mr. Speaker: Is that your question?

Mr. Rae: Does the minister not realize there is another very reasonable and fair option? That is, that the government gets off the pot, produces the legislation, gets it into committee and lets the new government deal with it in June and July, which is what the people of this province want.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Might I respond to the Premier—the leader of the third party.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Why are the Liberals so worried when I say that? Why are the member's friends so worried?

The member is looking more and more each day like the dog that caught the car.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I take it no one really wants to hear the answer.

Answer, if you wish to, Minister.

Mr. Warner: Tell him to put his knives on the table first.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: What did he say?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Put your knives on the table first. Talk about knives.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That member should keep his in his mouth.

Let us remember that the ordinary course of running this House would have the throne speech debated, then we move to legislation. This government is prepared to follow that normal course, but—and I want to say it very clearly—there is one thing stopping that ordinary course from running, there is one thing that will prohibit and prevent second reading of the bill, there is one thing that will prevent it from going to committee, and that is the simple fact that the third party in this House, the New Democratic Party, has made three decisions.

First, prior to reading the throne speech or hearing any intentions or specifics of our legislation, it decided to vote no confidence in this government. Second, it decided that getting power for its friends in the coalition was more important than hearing the bill. Third, it decided there would be limits on public input when the bill is debated. That is what it said.

The party may, therefore, feel it is in a position to dictate to others about open processes and public input, but I want to say clearly there is no single group in Ontario that has less of a right to

talk to the public about input and dialogue on this important piece of legislation than the New Democratic Party of Ontario.

10:40 a.m.

OAKLANDS REGIONAL CENTRE

Mr. Offer: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services about the Oaklands Regional Centre for the developmentally handicapped, which received \$6.5 million in ministerial funds. The minister will be aware that the concerns necessitating the minister's attention have existed since the fall of 1983 when a provisional licence was issued.

In December 1984 an operational review, which outlined 48 recommendations for improvements, was completed. Given continuing concerns regarding mismanagement practices, why did the ministry wait until May of this year to inform the board of the facility that ministerial interim management was necessary?

Hon. Mr. Eves: The member is quite correct in stating that this has been a long outstanding matter within the Oaklands centre. However, we have tried to approach the matter with a view to getting the co-operation of the board and the administration at Oaklands. There has been some progress made. We felt we should give them every opportunity.

The member will note that we did issue them some temporary conditional licences from time to time, hoping they would improve their performance. It did resolve some of the issues we raised. However, other ones seemed to keep cropping up; so eventually we took what we considered to be the proper initiative.

Finally, the board of Oaklands on its own initiative asked the ministry to go in and take over the management review of the facility.

Mr. Offer: The minister may think his ministry acted expeditiously, but I do not. I refer him to a letter dated July 24, 1984, sent by his predecessor to a concerned parent. It states, "Please be assured that I will be requesting a follow-up report to ensure that program problems at Oaklands Regional Centre are resolved."

Ten months passed before the ministry took decisive action a few days ago despite further complaints by parents, staff and the Liberal Party. How can the minister justify that kind of delay when his predecessor promised much more expeditious action to solve these problems experienced by the residents of Oaklands?

Hon. Mr. Eves: The member is quite correct in stating that some members of the Oaklands staff were not aware of the procedures they should be following in certain instances with respect to notification and consent of parents. We have followed up those. We have tried to act judiciously in the matter, but we have also tried to give the Oaklands administration staff an opportunity to review its situation internally and to provide better service to the parents. We have been in contact with the parents as well.

PCB SPILLS

Mrs. Grier: My question is for the Minister of the Environment and concerns the spill of PCBs on the Trans-Canada Highway last April. Will the minister tell this House what has been the cost of the cleanup of that spill, including both temporary and permanent highway repairs, the cleanup of the truck stop parking lot where the spill was identified and the compensation for the expenses incurred as a result of losses to individuals and businesses? How much of these costs have been borne by the provincial Treasury?

Hon. Ms. Fish: I am not in a position to give details on the cost today, but I will certainly take the matter under advisement and reply. I should advise the members of this House that charges have been laid as a result of the incident and that while emergency cleanup has been concluded, long-term cleanup procedures are still under way.

Mrs. Grier: As the amendments to the Environmental Protection Act, commonly known as the spills bill, would have designated responsibility and given clear guidelines for the actions of the ministry in the case of a spill such as this, will the minister please tell us why this bill has not been proclaimed? Rather, in the speech from the throne it is intended that the regulations will be delayed again by being sent to the standing committee on resources development.

Hon. Ms. Fish: This government does not feel that emergencies created by any hazardous waste accident should await the identification of those who have been involved. We moved in the Kenora situation as we have moved in others and as we will continue to move.

We will be bringing the regulations forward to the standing committee so that proper consideration can be given to a number of points of implementation. I would point out to the honourable member that we will also be bringing forward compatible regulations to implement in a harmonizing fashion the federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act.

Both of those measures will substantially improve the safety provisions for the handling of hazardous waste. None the less, should an incident arise where there is an emergency and where there is a spill, my ministry, along with representatives from sister ministries in the government, will continue to move with the greatest dispatch and will step in immediately with a full response.

Mr. McGuigan: With respect to the transformer that was supposed to be empty of PCB oils but turned out to be full and to be leaking, does the Minister of the Environment not agree that had the spills bill been in force, the companies would have taken precautions, knowing the liabilities that would have been brought upon them, and that this incident would never have happened if the spills bill had been brought in years ago as it should have been?

Hon. Ms. Fish: I repeat that charges have been laid in this matter. They would be laid if any such incident occurred again, and it is conceivable that it might. The ministry acted with dispatch; it was on the site immediately and began the emergency cleanup and the long-term cleanup. The honourable member will appreciate that since charges have been laid, I am obviously not in a position to be able to go into matters that would be before the courts, such as particular details respecting the spill.

GRAIN FINANCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Agriculture and Food has a reply to a previous question asked by the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay).

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: The question had to do with the issue of basis contracts under the grain financial protection program in relation to the McKinlay situation.

Since being placed in this office, I have thoroughly reviewed the minutes of all meetings that have occurred between ministry staff and the three groups, the soybean group, the corn group and the grain elevators and feed dealers association. I have reviewed some of the discussions that had gone on previously in the House and I have also checked the acts that are in question. It seems to me there is some real question whether the original intention was to include basis contracts in the grain financial protection program.

I guess the problem under the acts is the date of sale. The ownership situation certainly is not clear under the present wording of the various acts in relation not only to basis contracts but also

to forward contracts and other methods of selling grain that are not currently in that act. The problem relates to the matter of payment 10 days after the date of sale and when the date of sale really occurs.

10:50 a.m.

To clarify the situation, I have met with the soybean board and I have talked with the corn producers' board and there is a meeting coming up. I have also asked the ministry staff to put together a meeting of a few representatives of each of those three groups, along with the Grain Financial Protection Board and the legal counsel, to go over each of the commonly used methods of selling grain and beans to examine thoroughly how each of those methods fits in with the existing acts and how complications in determining the date of sale, the date of payment and the actual ownership of the various grains will be determined under some of the more exotic ways of dealing with these beans and corn.

That situation will be clarified. I have asked for the written position of each of the three groups on this issue. That will be forthcoming. I want the written position because there are very high-profile producers in both beans and corn that have been phoning me and telling me basis contracts should not be included; so I have asked for the position of each of the three major players in this issue. It is very important that we do not make a quick decision now that will set precedents that the three groups will not be happy with in the future. As soon as that is clarified, we will make a decision on the issue immediately at hand.

Mr. Ramsay: That reply is not good enough. The ministry certainly made a quick decision that these farmers who are holding the bag for \$1.4 million do not qualify under this.

I refer to the pamphlet the ministry published on this matter. It listed some exemptions and it did not list forward contracting as an exemption to this; so reading this, a farmer would enter into this contract in good faith thinking it would be covered.

On another matter, I would like to say-

Mr. Speaker: I believe you have asked your question.

Mr. Ramsay: Is it not the ministry's intent and policy to encourage farmers to use tools such as forward contracting and hedging, as a course I attended at the ministry office in New Liskeard, urges them to do? Why are these programs not included in the financial protection plan?

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: As far as I am concerned, this legislation is enabling legislation to cover, with any reasonable sense of limit at all. anything the industry would prefer to have under this financial protection fund.

Certainly, one method of dealing with grains is delayed payment, and that is an accepted way. It is very clear from the industry that it does not want delayed payments covered. Just because something is an acceptable way of merchandising agricultural commodities does not necessarily automatically mean that it is going to be under this protection plan.

The second situation is that as we get to the more exotic methods of marketing beans and grain, it will be largely up to the producers to decide whether they want to cover, and how much they are willing to pay for them, some of the higher-risk methods of dealing in those commodities. I am sure in the future, if it is the decision of the industry to cover some of these more exotic methods, which I agree are recommended, and if it is willing to pay for that risk, then there is not too much doubt in my mind that they will likely be covered.

Mr. Riddell: The minister is well aware that there is an obvious lack of clarification in the Farm Products Payments Act as it pertains to basis or option contracts. This lack of clarification was brought to the attention of the minister's predecessor last summer. Nothing has been done about it until now.

Does the minister not feel, with this negligence on the part of his ministry, that he has some obligation to see that the producers who sold those basis contracts are covered under the financial protection plan, as they believed they were all along, since the brochure the ministry sent out further confirms they were covered?

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: There was extensive discussion between ministry staff and the industry at the time this financial protection plan was brought in. I am sure just about everyone in the industry will admit the situation is much more difficult than almost anyone had ever anticipated.

As I said, I have thoroughly reviewed the minutes of meetings and the memoranda that flowed back and forth between the various groups. I can find only one piece of written information that states there was a need for basis contracts to be included. There is a letter on file which clearly indicates that some members of the industry did not want basis contracts included.

After a review of the situation, from what I can determine there was no major thrust to include basis contracts in the original situation. Quite frankly, I think it was an oversight on the behalf

of a great many people involved.

There may have been some lack of thoroughness of discussion on some particular item, but most certainly there was no negligence. If it is decided by the industry that it is prepared to cover the extra risk of some of these more exotic methods of marketing grain and beans, then I am sure it will be put into the legislation.

Once I have the written position of all those people, then we will immediately deal with the situation as to whether there will be immediate coverage made now, as well as moves towards future coverage in those areas.

ENTERPRISE CENTRES

Mr. Van Horne: I would direct this question to the Minister of Industry and Trade. In the 1984 budget a new enterprise centres program was announced. The centres were to provide new entrepreneurs with low-cost startup space and common support services.

The budget also stated that assistance would be provided on a cost-shared basis to a municipality. It was later announced that four of the seven centres would be community or municipally based. These were originally to be operational in 1985, and yet not one is now open.

I understand the major reason for the delay is the dispute between the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, with the latter asserting that municipal participation in a commercial enterprise would be contrary to the Municipal Act.

How can a major program be announced in the budget, guidelines prepared and applications accepted before the legal status of the program has even been checked with the other ministries involved? It would seem the right hand does not know what the left one is doing.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: With respect to the last part of that comment, I would suggest the left hand over there knows what that right hand is doing in some respects.

The honourable member is quite correct in suggesting that the enterprise centres were announced in the budget. The money is in place and negotiations are actively under way with the various ministries that are involved.

There is some element of truth, which does not happen too often from that side of the House, with respect to one part of the question that was asked relative to an internal negotiation that is going on at the moment, and it is with respect to something that we refer to very simply as

bonusing. We want to make absolutely certain that with respect to the enterprise program all the municipalities in Ontario will be treated equally, that they will be treated equitably and there will be no unfair encouragement for industry, as an example, to go to an enterprise centre as opposed to another community.

I know the member raises this question because he has perhaps a more direct interest in London, which is one of the communities under consideration. Let me simply say that London is still very actively being considered. We have not made a final decision on it yet, but we will consider London along with a number of other centres.

I am pleased to say we may very well have an announcement with respect to the first enterprise centre on the part of this government within a matter of the next couple of days.

11 a.m.

Mr. Van Horne: The minister did not indicate that announcement would apply to all communities. It may well be an application of that program to a community or a situation other than one which is involved with this municipal legal problem.

My understanding is that the lawyers of the Ministry of Industry and Trade say there is no problem, but the lawyers for the other ministries say there is a problem.

Municipalities such as London, in presenting their applications, had to do such things as negotiate with the university and find accommodation. In some cases municipalities had to put down some money to get a building or a property in which they could house the program. They cannot wait for ever.

If the minister is going to announce something next week that would cover part of the program, is he going to get rid of the legal problem within an equally short period of time so municipalities such as London can carry on with the program if they are accepted?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The London application is still very much alive—it has not been rejected—along with those of a number of other communities. There are some complications, for example, relating to the federal involvement in The Innovation and Entrepreneurial Management Corp. program, which deals with the same concept at a national level.

Provincially, we are looking at an announcement that may include as many as five centres very shortly. I alluded in my earlier response to the question to the fact that we have one centre, which I believe will be ready to be announced officially at the first of the week. I can promise the honourable member there will be a release on Monday or Tuesday of next week concerning the first centre.

The other four or five still have some complications that I want to deal with in a sensitive way, as the member would want me to deal with these issues. He would want me to look at them very carefully and make absolutely certain that London was being treated in a fair manner. I want to assure the member I intend to do just that, so he can rest comfortably knowing that this government, as it always has in the past, will continue to deal intelligently, responsibly and sensitively with all issues that come before it.

LEAD LEVELS

Mr. Reville: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. The speech from the throne congratulates the government for caring deeply about the environment. The speech specifically notes the government's obligation to our children. Can the minister reconcile for this House these laudable sentiments with the less laudable reality that in south Riverdale our children continue to be threatened by elevated blood-lead levels?

Hon. Ms. Fish: The member for Riverdale, formerly the ward alderman representing the area in question, south Riverdale, will know well that Ministry of the Environment officials are working very closely with medical-officer-of-health officials in Toronto to undertake appropriate testing and to prepare jointly plans for remedial cleanup of the soil samples that have been found to contain excessive amounts of lead.

Mr. Reville: I am delighted that the minister knows the facts as well as I do. In view of the fact that her officials have had 15 years to think about this matter, will she instruct them to implement immediately a soil replacement program in south Riverdale?

Hon. Ms. Fish: The honourable member knows very well that tests are under way now at the request of the medical officer of health, the city of Toronto, the department of public health and the board of health. Joint planning is under way to deal with the contaminated soil. He should know this is not a matter that has been decided or has been dragging on. The ministry is responding in the fullest possible fashion to the specific request in co-operation with the medical officer of health.

Mr. McGuigan: Where does the minister stand on the matter of lead additions to fuel? The air in the city contains a great deal of lead from

automobile exhaust, and that exacerbates the problem of lead in the soil. Where does her ministry stand on that?

An hon. member: It is the ethanol-methanol speech.

Hon. Ms. Fish: No, I do not think it is the ethanol-methanol speech.

The contaminants that result from burning gasoline, particularly in motor vehicles, are a concern of the ministry and of health officials as well. The honourable member will know that we have been engaged, with colleagues in sister ministries and with federal officials, in looking at changes in requirements in the processing for lead levels in gasoline and, of course, in the discussions that led to the recently announced requirement for reduction of nitrous oxide emissions.

I note that in both these cases we are concerned about the health of individuals within our society. We are also quite concerned about the impact of both lead emissions and nitrous oxide emissions on the environment and the possible negative effect in several farming and forest areas.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Minister of Education. Since there is some conflicting legal opinion about our constitutional responsibility for the funding of separate schools, can the minister indicate to the House exactly what the position of the government is in this regard? What is the constitutional responsibility of our government to fund separate schools at this time?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The government got extensive legal advice from the Ministry of the Attorney General before introducing the policy statement last June. At that time the Ministry of the Attorney General offered the advice that it was both constitutional and proper in the circumstances, given the history of this funding since 1840.

Mr. Sterling: Does that mean we are constitutionally required to provide the funding to the end of grade 13?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is a question on which I think there will be a division of opinion with regard to the word "required." The important matter for us to deal with is the fact that this government has not backed away from the premise that it was its view that basic education

now includes funding through the high school and secondary school period of time.

The opinion as sought from the Attorney General–I stand to be corrected—was not on the question of whether it was required but on whether it was appropriate and constitutional to so do on the basis of the Constitution, the British North America Act and the history before that going back to 1840.

11:10 a.m.

ACID RAIN

Mr. Poirier: I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. This morning in her statement to the Legislature the minister talked about Operation Shield, which is to help correct the acidity level in lakes in Ontario's shield.

In view of the Conservative government's evidently poor record of preparing and enforcing strict and even stricter environmental regulations, I would like the minister to explain how we can feel reassured this time that her ministry will really fulfil its pledge to reduce Ontario's total sulphur emissions by 53 per cent by 1994.

The Minister of the Environment loves to point out the transboundary sources of acid rain. How does she expect to make a serious impact on Senator Kennedy and other American officials when her own ministry permits Ontario Hydro to emit more than 500,000 tons of sulphur dioxide per year?

Hon. Ms. Fish: I thought I indicated very clearly in the statement that Operation Shield is a reclamation project important for those lakes that have been damaged by acid precipitation. However, reclamation, restoration and restocking obviously are not the answer. The answer is in decreasing the sources of the acid precipitation in the first instance.

To that end, we have signed federal-provincial agreements for reductions. We have implemented targets with Hydro, which I am pleased to report is ahead of schedule on its reduced emissions. Notwithstanding the scoffing of the leader of the third party, we are going to move to apply a nonappealable regulation against Inco. That particular requirement was welcomed, and in fact sought, by the environmental groups with whom I met not a week ago, which had indicated their pleasure at the announced 50 per cent reduction and had expressed their main concern as being whether Inco would meet its requirement.

Their specific request was that the minister move to place a nonappealable regulation against Inco to ensure the necessary reduction. I was

pleased to attend to that advice and was pleased this morning to announce that very firm regulation which will require that reduction.

Mr. Poirier: Some of the worst acid rain fallouts have occurred in my riding of Prescott-Russell in eastern Ontario. Rain with a pH value of 3.6, almost as acidic as vinegar, has fallen in my riding. Much of it has come from Ontario sources, contrary to the minister's preference to blame transboundary sources, and the government has done little in my area to solve the problem.

If the government were to have lasted longer than three weeks, what would the minister have done to correct this situation in eastern Ontario?

Hon. Ms. Fish: The honourable member is simply misinformed with respect to the sources. We are very clear and have been prepared to move very specifically to control the sources of acidic precipitation within Ontario which affect parts of Ontario and elsewhere. There is no question in any of the studies that have been done by officials of my ministry, by independent university people or by the environmental groups themselves that the major source of acid precipitation in this province is transboundary.

I have tried to make very clear that while that is the case and while we will continue to press in the strongest possible terms for improvements to be made in transboundary emissions, none the less we feel it is important that we clean our own house because our own house does affect parts of our borders as well as our sister provinces to the

To that end, I repeat, we have moved in the firmest possible way against Inco. We have established very firm requirements for Hydro, and Hydro is ahead of schedule. Also, we are engaged in restoration and reclamation programs which surely are the next logical step when emissions have been sharply controlled.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am pleased to direct my first question in this parliament to the Minister of Energy. My question concerns a government that has neglected northern Ontario for 42 years, resulting in higher unemployment, lack of industrial diversification and higher costs of goods and services in the north.

In particular, I question the unfair prices charged for gasoline and home heating fuel in northern Ontario. Why do northerners have to pay eight, 10 and even 15 cents a litre more for gasoline than those people in metropolitan areas of the south?

Could the minister explain why we can have one price for beer in Ontario but we cannot have fair prices for gasoline and home heating fuel in this province?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There may not be time for the minister even to give an answer.

Hon. Mr. Harris: I suppose one's definition of what is fair varies, depending on whether one is selling and involved in the industry and the jobs of the industries that are selling, or whether one is in the business of buying.

Several of the prices the honourable member talks about are regulated. As he knows, gas prices are regulated through the Ontario Energy Board, and there is a vast and extensive hearing process that goes on as to the prices of those commodities.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The members of the House are not interested in the reply.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Peterson: I am very proud to open the discussion on behalf of my party. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we have all faced some very interesting times in the last little while, and I am one of those who is persuaded they will continue to be interesting. I believe our party is ready to assume the challenges that lie ahead, whatever they may be. I believe, in spite of some of the differences, we have developed many things in common among the members of this House that are going to serve us all well in the future.

That being said, the people of this province did speak for change with a very clear voice not too long ago. I have been here for 10 years, and I believed change was necessary for all that time. The people spoke in the last election and confirmed that view.

For anyone who had any doubts, watching the Conservatives in action for the past three weeks has confirmed very clearly that change is the order of the day. The performance of that party in the past three weeks has turned many of its supporters against it. It is a record of which none of the Conservative members individually should be very proud.

I have never seen such philosophical harlotry. I have never seen such lack of dignity in facing the inevitable. They know and I know about the appointments putting in their friends and abusing the situation that lies in front of them. They know and I know the daily reports of the purging of files. I do not think history is going to treat them very well. This is not their finest hour as a party. It is not something any of them should be very proud of.

I am very proud of the new group with whom I stand. The many new members in this House are evidence that the people of this province did want change. We are prepared to join with others in being agents of that change. When people cast their ballots on May 2, not only did they give the Liberal Party more votes than any other party for the first time in 48 years but also they brought this House and this parliament into the 1980s in one quick spring. They injected our party with a great new dose of talent to bolster the already proven talent we have.

11:20 a.m.

One of the things I am proud of is the fact that our party, more than in the past at least, represents the mirror of the new face of Ontario. I can assure the House the difference is more than meets the eye. The difference is a new perspective, new points of view unencumbered by the past and perspectives that will give a new voice to many in our society who have not previously been heard in these chambers.

Let me be charitable and congratulate the government on the speech from the throne, at least for the assistance it gave to the Lieutenant Governor in the preparation thereof. There is little in it that we would not have said ourselves; in fact, there is little in it that we did not say ourselves.

But at the very least the speech proved one thing: that the government of the day can interpret election results as well as anyone else can. It reminded me of the words of a commander in the French Revolution who said: "There go the people. I must follow them, for I am their leader." That is the spectre of what we have seen in the past few weeks.

There is one fundamental problem with the throne speech: it should have been delivered years ago. Also, many of the promises it contains should have been acted upon years ago.

We understood, and I think we have understood for some time, the depth of the people's real desire for change in this province. The people had before them a very clear option. They could have maintained the government of the

day, but instead they voted by a margin of more than two to one a mandate for that change, and that is the reality of May 2.

It is not surprising that a number of things on which we campaigned were shared by the other parties, the New Democratic Party in particular and latterly the Conservatives as well. We obviously do not agree on everything. What has been established is not a coalition. We are not trying to persuade New Democrats to become Liberals; they are not trying to persuade us to become New Democrats any more than we are trying to persuade the Conservatives to become Liberals or vice versa.

But there has developed during and after the campaign a clear consensus on a number of issues. I do not expect it will always be easy going; I have some understanding of the difficulties and vicissitudes of a minority House. But I am also persuaded that we can all make it work.

As I said, it is also clear in many ways that we were brought closer together during this campaign and after, and I very much hope this spirit of co-operation will continue in the important things, because it is a reality of life and a reality of politics that no one person has a monopoly on good ideas, no one party has a monopoly on good ideas. That is why it is going to be incumbent upon every single member of this House to make the best of how the people have spoken.

We do have one very basic thing in common, and that is that we all believe in our system of democracy, the system of free people making free choices. When one looks at the relatively few places in the world that have our system, we are, in spite of our differences, fortunate to be here and fortunate to be participating.

As I said in this House last year, each legislator has a special responsibility. Each legislator brings something unique, individual perspectives and talents, to the process. In this House, there are no nobodies.

The people of this province must also be guaranteed an opportunity to participate. I do not have to remind anyone here that we are the servants of the people; they are not our servants. May I remind members of the words of Sir Edward Blake, who led my party more than a century ago. He said, "The privileges of parliament are the privileges of the people and the rights of parliament are the rights of the people." I think it is going to be incumbent upon all of us to try to match the spirit of those words.

We can do that by encouraging everyone in this province to play a role in the process of government. We in the Legislature must say to the people of this province: "This is your House. This is your parliament." Our job is to unlock the door. We must make everyone feel welcome here. It is time we gave government a human face, one with eyes that have a clear vision, ears that listen and, indeed, a smile as well. That is the way we would govern if we were given the opportunity, because we realize the essence of government is not command, but consent.

We must share all information freely and openly with those who belong to other parties and with those who belong to no party. We must give people the information they need to participate in the process of government. That includes not only freedom-of-information legislation but also the release of all information that can help people participate actively in the process.

For example, why should it be the exclusive prerogative of the government to see polls taken with public money? They should be available for all, for opposition parties and for everyone in this province to study, examine and draw one's own conclusions. Our guiding rule should be simple. Any information that helps the government to shape policies should be available to all so that they can assess those policies.

We have seen an example of that in the last two days in the discussions that have gone on in this House. I disagree fundamentally with the approach of the government on the matter. It should be shared now; we have been waiting almost a year with no public information. There is not one member in this House who is insensitive to the divisions that have been caused, essentially, I believe, not through lack of goodwill but through lack of information, consultation and discussion. We have failed, and I say even more critically, the government has failed in its responsibility in that regard because part of our responsibility is to restore people's faith in the good intentions of government.

It is not my view that the government of the day has been possessed by bad intentions, but there is little reason to believe that for the most part those intentions have always been matched by deeds. We must reverse that mentality. For example, we must change the rules on untendered contracts. We have to end cronyism. We have to make sure that public appointments are not based on friendship or political affiliation, but are based on merit. Our responsibility will be to establish public service as the highest calling in our society and to persuade people of all points of view, be they Liberal, Conservative or New Democrat, or be they the many who have no

particular affiliation, to come forward to serve their province and their country.

I believe one of the strong messages that came from this election is that we have a mandate to end cronyism. When I see that cronyism continuing in the past couple of weeks, as the Conservative Party tries desperately to hang on to power, I do not think it speaks well of its judgement in this matter.

Perhaps the worst thing about the cynical manner in which the government has repaid its political debts in the past is the impact on the way in which people view the public service. It has made those who are willing to serve the public the subject of scorn rather than the object of respect. Cynicism breeds cynicism. That is the greatest debt this government bears at the moment. We must agree together to restore respect for those who serve the public. Our civil servants must not become part of the political battleground; neither should they be among the casualties when there is a change. Our civil service must not be expected to carry out our political tasks or to take any action to curry favour with this government any more than it should be permitted to obstruct the policies of this government.

We should be very careful not to take a narrow view of our job and our responsibilities. Our job obviously includes legislation, management of policy and the public purse, and charting a course for economic growth. However, it includes something more, something intangible. It is the job of government to raise the public will, to summon the public spirit and to motivate people to go the extra mile to aid their fellow citizens. From what we have seen recently, I believe every one of us has reason to believe that when summoned, when inspired, when called upon, people will respond.

11:30 a.m.

Government and politicians have been displaying a tendency to shrink from challenges, sometimes when people have been displaying a tendency to seek out those challenges. In our own country, we have recently seen two marvellous examples of people willing to rise to those challenges. We have seen a young man from British Columbia, afflicted by the most dreaded disease of our time, battle that foe on behalf of himself and millions of others. In Steve Fonyo we have proof that a journey of even 5,000 miles begins with a single step.

In our own province, in response to the tragedy of last weekend, we have also seen people rising to fight a common foe. Amid the terrible devastation that hit the central part of our province last week, one positive thing stood out very clearly. There were far more volunteers wanting to help than there were victims. When challenged, people respond, and proof of that was provided in Barrie, Orangeville, Tottenham, Holland Marsh and Grand Valley.

We must summon that spirit to help mould the kind of Ontario we want to leave to our children. One of the prime goals of this government should be to develop ways to unlock that spirit, to marshal that strength and find solutions to many of the problems that confront us. We must develop new ways to develop that potential for good.

The government's responsibility is to lead. Looking back for a moment, there is no question that in more than four decades there have been many accomplishments. We have achieved much that we in our party and I am sure those in other parties would want to preserve. We owe great debts, collectively, to Leslie Frost, George Drew, Bill Davis, John Robarts—someone whose seat I now hold, redistributed as it is. I have always been very honoured to have that distinction. The history of Ontario is lined with testimonials to their dedication and their contributions.

But we must start facing today's problems. We must not saddle our children with yesterday's problems. It is easy to see why that approach was considered reasonable 40 years or 30 years or even 20 years ago. When times are good, it is tempting to think times will always be that way.

One can understand how governments can be deceived into believing the good life was easy, always there and impossible to lose. What is difficult to understand is why we were still deceived after the blinders were ripped off us with such force in the early 1970s. What is sometimes difficult to understand is the self-deception. Over the past four decades, governments of this province, when faced with longrange problems, have often shuffled them aside. If that would not do, the Premier would simply shuffle the cabinet, but many of the problems did not disappear in those shuffles.

We have to think of the problems of an ageing population. We have to think about the fundamental changes that are affecting industry. We have to ask ourselves where our young people are going to work 10 years and 20 years from now. Do they have the skills? We have to set on course now the plans and the motions to make that happen. We must not let the deficiencies of the

past become ingrained in the name of false progress.

We have to think about the environmental problems we are still creating today, in 1985—a major subject of discussion in this House because of our failure to lead and our tendency to apologize, to be always behind.

Many of these problems were predicted or could have been predicted. We have had many discussions in this House and it is probably not productive to go back and say, "We told you so, because we talked about this 10 years ago or five years ago." The reality is that many of these things were not acted upon.

The Tory throne speech is a perfect example of that. It is a 37-page apology, an admission of where things were wrong and perhaps a misreading of the political mood of this province. I have no idea. It is living witness to the fact that we have a number of problems we have not faced in the past and now we have to take up that challenge.

We have seen policies that could stand the test of politics, but they have not stood the test of time. We have failed to prevent many of the things we could have prevented and we have failed to deal with our potential problems. It is as though this government has been late for every deadline. It is like trying to catch a train without a schedule.

The important thing now, however, is not to fix blame, but to chart the course for the future. One thing we have learned is that government must not only be concerned about the next election. Politicians tend to see the future in terms of the next election, but we must see it collectively in terms of the next decade and the next generation.

In the past four decades we have passed through an era of rapid growth, an era of consolidation and an era of retrenchment. Now we have to go back and build the new opportunity. Before we enter this era, we must decide where we want it to take us and how we are going to get there. It is not good enough to get off to only a fresh start; we must get off to a good start.

We have to do that with our eyes open. We must enter this era thinking about where it will lead us and planning the course we will all follow, unlike the way we embarked on the previous eras in our post-war history. The prospect of change often brings with it apprehension, but I am sure it will become very clear in the near future that there is no reason for that concern if we confront that future and discuss collectively the kind of change we want to see.

We have to stop telling people to expect less. It is this kind of talk that blunts ambition and saps the spirit, because it is a desire for a better life that motivates people in a free society. We have no reason to curb our expectations. We just have to use more ingenuity in the future to achieve them. Over the next few years we can expect major changes in industry, job creation, education, training and health care, especially for a growing and ageing population.

I want to speak very briefly about what I consider to be three of the fundamental challenges any administration faces in this province today. There are the day-to-day concerns, the things that have to be dealt with, and good management is obviously the order of the day. There are some basic things as well, however. We must not let the events that intercede in our political lives take us off the path of our basic commitments to change society.

I am very mindful of the influence of events on political life. I once saw an interview with Harold Wilson. He was asked by David Frost what the chief influence in his life was. It was a very in-depth interview. Mr. Frost was looking for an answer that would give a philosopher, teacher, mother or some credo Mr. Wilson lived by. He asked, "What is the major influence in your life?" Mr. Wilson turned to him and in one word answered, "Events." We all know how events conspire to shape political life but let them not take us off our basic course.

Our party is dedicated to fundamental reform in work, in school and in health. It is a cliché to say that the nature of our industrial economy is changing very rapidly around us. We have had a Minister of Industry and Trade, and I am not being critical of any particular one, who has done essentially two things. He has travelled abroad selling our products on trade missions, all quite wonderful and worth while, and he has run around bailing out and trying to prop up failing industries.

Both of those activities belie the fundamental changes that are going on in our society today, the move to high technology, the move to freer trade around the world and international competition. These are dramatic changes that I do not believe have been fully comprehended or worked into public policies in this province.

Many of our traditional industries are under siege today, and many may not be there, at least in the same form, five, 10 or 20 years from now. We have to ask ourselves where our kids are going to work. Where are they going to find the kind of opportunity to allow them to make their

choices to build their kinds of lives and have their own economic opportunities?

When I look at the slow erosion and at the changes that have gone on, I become very concerned at the fundamental inability of our system to deal with those matters. I do not think they can be solved with a conference once every four years, bringing together 150 players from various sectors and with nothing happening but the publishing of a very glossy and attractive report. That is not the kind of dialogue nor the kind of leadership we are going to have to have. It is going to take a lot of time; sleeves rolled up; a lot of work; people from all sectors working together, identifying common objectives and working towards them.

11:40 a.m.

I do not suggest for a minute that the solutions are simple or easy. I do not suggest for a minute that it is not one of the most complex questions we face as a society. But we have no choice other than to address it, and I hope to do so with the help of all my colleagues in this House and to start that process now. That is one of the great challenges we face, and we will not know the results of it for many years down the pike. But when its history is written, I hope it will be written that this Legislature, this group, understood the depth of the problem and was prepared to address it in all its various forms-high tech, industries, smokestack industriesmaking sure that people are not displaced unduly by these changes, that we approach them in a compassionate and thoughtful way, not clinging to the past but moving ahead with courage and a sense of direction.

I believe as well that another of our great challenges is to make our school system, our education system, relevant today. We have had many discussions about this in the past. Interestingly enough, for probably one of the great areas of jurisdiction of this Legislature, it is an area that has probably had less discussion. Unless a bill comes around, such as Bill 127 or a forced universities reference, there is very little real input from this Legislature in those matters.

You know, Mr. Speaker, as I know, the great consternation in the education community on the part of both the practitioners and the consumers—parents, young people and everyone else. When one throws in the number of things that have been thrown in, such as the separate schools question, something we believe in, that consternation rises even more.

We must now reassert our commitment to quality education at all levels, recognizing that it

is the single most important resource we have: trained, educated, entrepreneurial and creative young people. Without going into detail, Mr. Speaker, because you will know some of our discussions in this party, there are many things we have to do and do quickly.

Again, we will not see the results in six months; we will not see them in two years; we may not even see them in five years. But I hope when history is written, the direction of the ship of state will have been turned and we will be making our system more relevant and more meaningful.

Those are basic challenges we face, just as we face basic challenges with respect to our health care system, an ageing population and tremendous pressures on every facility that exists across this province. That, too, is going to take major and fundamental rethinking.

We have talked about noninstitutionalized programs; new, thoughtful and, I think, sensitive and cost-effective ways of dealing with some of these problems in the future. We are prepared to chart new directions, we are prepared to deal with these fundamental problems and we do believe we can turn the direction of the ship of state and make a meaningful contribution over the years.

Those are things that we in our party believe in because the Liberal Party has never feared change. The Liberal Party has historically been an agent for change, believing it is our responsibility to move forward with courage and not to seek the security blanket of some 20 years ago.

Just as we have major problems in our environmental area—and I will not go into detail—the deathbed conversion of the Tories on this matter is not credible, to say the very least. But we are going to move ahead with courage in that area as well.

One of our great responsibilities is to change the face of the way this province is governed, to make sure that the great majority receives equal treatment. I am talking about the 52 per cent of women in this province. Those of us who believe in the ideal of equality cannot rest easy when 52 per cent of our population still faces discrimination that is a residue of age-old prejudices and misconceptions.

It is not too soon to change that, and we intend to do so. We will not listen to excuses or accept bureaucratic delays or half-committed leadership to slow down what I believe is a legitimate aspiration of women across this province. So too with minorities, who have a legitimate right to participate in all our institutions. We intend to change that as well.

It has always been said that Ontario did not have any particular sense of identity, that Ontarians always saw themselves as Canadians first and that we did not have the sense of regionalism that perhaps some of the other provinces in this country have. I think we saw in this campaign a sense of Ontario more than we have seen in the past, a sense that we are not prepared to sit by and see Ontario's interests sacrificed to bilateral deals made with the federal government for other provinces when our interests are not protected and not considered.

We have seen the interests of many people in this province threatened by unilateral federal moves in the last little while. Our seniors are going to lose enormously as a result of the federal budget. Obviously, there was very little consultation, if any, with this government. If there was any consultation, it was not taken seriously.

We need to stand up for Ontario's interests. We need voices in Ottawa that will be taken seriously and we are prepared to provide that leadership. We cannot sit by, Mr. Speaker, you know the things we believe in, the things we are prepared to do. You know the government's record on these matters as well; at least you know the record today. There are no guarantees that it will not be different tomorrow.

Recognizing the inevitable is going to happen, it now becomes our responsibility to summon the most thoughtful people from all parties to work together and fulfil the dreams, hopes and aspirations of the two thirds of the people in the province who voted for meaningful change.

This government has had its chance. When it went to the highest court in the land, it failed. It was judged to be guilty. People want change. I only hope the government can recognize that with some equanimity. I have some personal understanding of failure and I know it is not easy, but I hope they will not take it personally or do things that will embarrass them when history is written.

This government has lost the confidence of the people of the province. To paraphrase the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes, sometimes government must sail with the wind, sometimes it must sail against the wind, but it must always sail. It must not drift or lie at anchor. This government was drifting, it was lying at anchor and it was not providing leadership on the things that mattered to the people of this province.

11:50 a.m.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Peterson moves, seconded by Mr. Nixon, that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session be amended by the addition of the following words: "That it is our duty to respectfully submit to Your Honour that Your Honour's present government does not have the confidence of this House."

Mr. Rae: It is a pleasure to participate in this debate. It is a pleasure one feels during all throne speech debates, but this one is different and unique in many ways. I say to my friends, my adversaries in the Conservative Party and in the Liberal Party that we are indeed making history in Ontario these days and that is a good thing.

Interjection.

Mr. Rae: We will welcome the Treasurer (Miss Stephenson) on this side of the House. She will enjoy the new position. If I may borrow a phrase from her seatmate, the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), the Premier of the province, "Misery loves company." She will be welcome over here. We will be quite happy to have her over here.

The Tories would have us believe that we should be carrying on with business as usual. In the past few days and the past few weeks since the realities of May 2, we have seen—we really do need a Gibbon or a Macaulay to describe the events of the past few days. That is not Hugh or Bob or any one of them. I am referring to the 19th-century Macaulay of a somewhat different political persuasion than the Macaulays of these days. Three months ago none of us would have believed we would be in this situation today, but here we are.

It is a time for us to reflect on and think about what has happened and why it has happened, and why the changes that I am proud to say our party has been instrumental in effecting make sense and will benefit the people of this province. That is the test we had to apply after the results of May 2 came in, not what was in the short-term interests of any one party but what it was that made sense.

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: I know it is hard for them to understand that. I am sure boxes of Kleenex will be provided by the Ministry of Government Services as the debate proceeds in the next two weeks.

The test that has to be applied is what makes the most sense for the people of the province. I say to the members of the Tory party opposite that when they start at 55 per cent and slide to 37, and they are still sliding, there is a message from the people of the province that it would well behoove them, once and for all, to listen to and not simply ignore. They should pay attention to the voice of the people.

I say to the members opposite that the result on May 2 was not a result—when I saw the results coming in, of course I was thrilled and delighted with the results in my own riding and with the results in many of my colleagues' ridings. I do not mind saying I would have liked to see more seats and that I was surprised to see the number of seats won by the Liberal Party. I suspect there are some members here who were surprised to see the results, perhaps even in their own ridings. Everyone is shaking—let us be honest for a moment.

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: I enjoy the repartee. We look forward to having them at closer quarters. We will get to know each other better and share some of these views.

Mr. McClellan: We can hear all the asides.

Mr. Rae: We can hear all the asides. We lose some of them in translation. I see the real Premier or the would-be Premier or whatever—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yourself; that is you.

Mr. Rae: He should come forward and not be shy. I was looking at four people and only one of them responded.

Mr. Foulds: And it was not Frank Miller.

Mr. Rae: It is hard. I know it is hard.

Mr. McClellan: Patience, Larry, patience.

Mr. Rae: It is tough.

Mr. Breaugh: The fifth column is on the march.

Mr. Rae: I thought there were only four columns over there, but there seem to be more-seven or five. I do not know how many there are.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: At least seven.

Mr. Rae: The key to the decision we made as a caucus and as a party in determining there had to be a change in government was simply this: that the people had spoken in an election and we had to respect that choice, and we as a party had to be instruments of change. We had to be instruments of change but not, if I may say so, in a minority parliament on a basis that simply says, "Okay, let us carry on with the kind of nonsense which we find in the throne speech." I am going to be coming to that in a moment.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Democracy is a problem for you, even an inconvenience.

Mr. Rae: Let us talk about democracy for a moment. The Minister of Education has raised the issue of democracy. As a classic, let us take the issue for which he is now responsible. Let us hear what he is saying. He is saying that a policy which was announced unilaterally, right out of the blue, with no warning whatsoever given by the leader of his party at that time, the Premier of his province—

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: -and I say to you, Mr. Speaker, there is no backing away on this side; the backing away is happening over on that side. That is where the backing away is happening.

Let us hear that party's definition of democracy. Their definition of democracy is this, by means of how it was implemented: there was no bill in the fall, there was no session called in the spring, they were determined to go to the people and have an election before the issue was dealt with in the Legislature. Then they have the result of the election where 37 per cent of the people voted for them and 62 or 63 per cent of the people voted against them. Then they come into this House, and they do not even have a bill; 360 days after the policy is announced they do not even have a piece of draft legislation ready for this assembly.

They come into this House and say, not once but twice, "The only way this matter can be considered is if we are allowed to remain in government for ever and ever." We are not going to put up with that and neither are the people of Ontario, not for a moment. That is arrogance of the highest order. It is that kind of arrogance which has always preceded a fall. That is the kind of arrogance which is preceding their own fall and it is a fall which is richly deserved.

We entered into discussions as a party and determined that it was important that minority government be carried on in a way that would provide stability and the input of all the members of the Legislature, that would ensure that the government would not be able to trump up confidence motions or trump up individual bills and say, "These are matters of confidence," which is precisely the way that government proceeded in 1977. We were not going to allow a two per cent difference in rent review to cause the province to have an election simply because they trumped it up. We were not going to go back to those bad old days, and they resented that.

We are not going to allow what happened in 1974 in the federal House to happen here, where

measures may simply be turned into matters of confidence and where they may be used. What we are saying is, "Yes, it is a change." Members of the Conservative Party are upset—

Hon. Mr. Brandt: You used the very rules you are talking about in 1979.

Mr. Rae: If the minister wants to talk about 1979, there we had a Prime Minister who was elected with a minority and who said, "I am going to govern as if I have a majority."

Mr. Foulds: That is arrogance for you.

Mr. Rae: Talk about arrogance; if that party wants to have arrogance, Joe Clark—

Interjection.

Mr. Rae: All right, the minister brought up Joe Clark. Believe me, what I did to Joe Clark was nothing compared to what the Premier, when he was Treasurer, did to Joe Clark, nothing at all. We all know that. What the Premier said about Joe Clark at that time was so good the Liberal Party was running it as part of its advertising campaign. That is how good it was.

12 noon

Mr. McClellan: Remember the Clarke Institute?

Mr. Rae: The minister mentioned that, and there we have a classic example.

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: This is fun, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: You were a threat to the stability of that government.

Mr. Rae: Turn in your keys, fellows; it is over. I know it is hard. We determined on this side, and I think it was a wise decision—

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: The member asks what will happen. Eventually the people will judge. They will judge the members opposite, they will judge whoever the new government is and they will judge us, and that is the way it should be.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: When you allow them.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: In two years.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: If you are saying you want to go back and have an election right away—is that what you are saying?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Be careful what you say.

Mr. Rae: No. You be careful.

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: I want to be very clear here. I want to have a clear understanding.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am quite sure the honourable member knows it is the tradition to speak through the chair.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Larry, tell us the truth. You want to go to convention.

Mr. Rae: No. The Minister of Education has to get it straight: convention first, then an election. Let him get the order right.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: "If we want an election," what? You were going to finish the sentence.

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: What I am saying is to think it through. I make no apology for insisting. It makes sense, it seems to me, to have a minority parliament. I do not mind the kibitzing, Mr. Speaker, but I would like—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Finish your sentence.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: "If the people want an election"—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You will be finished.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, this must be the first time that deer have attempted to sell hunting licences in Ontario, one of the first examples of deer asking for hunting licences. I do not understand it.

What I will say to the Minister of Education, to the once, would-be and—who knows?—could-be Premier of the province, is simply that it is incumbent on us in this minority parliament to insist on the same kind of stability the party opposite insisted on in 1977 after the results of the 1977 election. Surely the people of Ontario are entitled to give a new government a chance, something the members opposite are congenitally incapable of providing, because they do not think anybody else has a right to govern this province; and that is their problem, that is the problem we have here.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: we have been trying to conduct this debate in a straightforward way, and I interrupted the honourable member when he was completing a sentence that began, "If the Conservative Party wants an election." To be fair to all the members of the assembly, I want to apologize for so interrupting the member and invite him to complete the sentence that began, "If the Progressive Conservative Party wants an election."

Mr. Rae: All I was saying, and I will express the thought again, is that I am interested in hearing—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The end of your sentence.

Mr. Rae: No. I am interested in hearing, as I have heard in the very lively response—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We are interested in hearing what you were going to say.

Mr. Rae: The minister is agitated, and I can understand his agitation. There are staff involved here, there are cars involved, there is a habit of power involved. These guys are going to have to figure out where the Metropass office is.

There are things at stake here, as the Tories know. They have had 42 years here, a habit of governing. They wake up in the morning and they know there is going to be a whole bureaucracy at their service, a whole way of doing things, a province at their command. Now suddenly they wake up and realize the people have said something different. We had an election. That is the election that took place. They had the election and they lost. They are getting it all in the wrong order. They should have brought out this throne speech before the election, not after the election.

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: First he was a rail splitter and then he was president. Get the order right.

I have been elected more often more recently than any other member of the Legislature and probably more often than anyone else in political life in Canada at the moment. I have been elected five times in the past six years. I like elections. I like meeting the people. I have fun in elections. I have fun when there are no elections. I have fun all the time. I have no problem facing an election, but surely there is a broader question. Are the members opposite prepared to let a minority government that is not their minority government work and be stable?

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: No, not theirs.

Hon. F. S. Miller: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I quote back to the leader of the third party what he said on April 28, that the New Democratic Party would co-operate to make a Progressive Conservative minority government work. Please show me that.

Mr. Rae: I did not say that. All I have ever said in the course of my political life—

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: I appreciate this, Mr. Speaker. If they are not acting like a party in opposition, I do not know who is. If this speech has accomplished nothing else, it has turned them into an opposition party. It is terrific. Finally, all that psychology has suddenly been shattered. Listen to all the voices. The Premier getting up, everybody getting up, all the would-be Premiers. Does anybody else want to get up? Does anybody else have a question?

All I have ever said is that we are determined to make a minority government work. I never-

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: All I have ever said-

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You were misquoted, I guess.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: You have selective amnesia.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: If they want to go back and compare clippings, I am happy to do that. If that is the game they want to play, we can go through a list of clippings.

The trouble the Tories are having today is that they cannot accept the results of the May 2 election. They cannot accept the fact that they got fewer votes than the Liberal Party of Ontario in the last election. They cannot accept the fact that another minority government can be formed in this parliament, and if we have anything to do with it, another minority government is going to be formed in this parliament. We are going to make it work in a new way. We will play a role as the New Democratic Party in helping to make it work.

I know it hurts. It is a real problem psychologically-

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am sure it is for you.

Mr. Rae: No. I am having no problems.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I will send you the diagnosis on paper.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the member would continue and ignore the interjections.

12:10 p.m.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer has promised me a diagnosis. All I can say is that I hope it is covered under the Ontario health insurance plan. I hope there is no extra billing involved, and that is a subject to which I want to turn in a moment.

I want to turn in a moment to what is in the speech from the throne and what is not. If I am allowed by members of the future opposition, I also want to discuss the nature of the accord I have signed on behalf of the New Democratic Party, setting out an agenda for reform for what we hope will be a minority government following the vote of no confidence on June 18.

It has been said, and I have said it on many occasions, that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. There are many things in the speech from the throne that we have been saying for a long time. It causes one a sense of rueful amusement and, I do not mind saying, a sense of achievement that things for which our party has been fighting for a long time have found their way on to the political agenda of other parties. That is an achievement of which we as New Democrats can be proud. It also speaks, perhaps more than anything else, to the desperation that exists on the other side of the House.

I want to say a word about some of the things that have been proposed. Having done as much as we have done in the strikes that have taken place in Ontario, it does my heart good to say that finally we have a consensus in this Legislature that workers who have chosen to join a trade union and to bargain in good faith with an employer who uses every trick, ruse and technique in the book to deny a contract will have the right to arbitration to a first contract so they will be able to have a collective agreement.

All I will say to the Tory party is to talk to the workers at Irwin Toy, Radio Shack and the 1,500 workers at Eaton's, and then turn around and say, "How swell we have been." The government has taken too damned long to recognize some rights that are fundamental in this province. That is the problem: it comes too late.

The government could have done something months ago to shorten the Eaton's strike and put those men and women back to work. If it is prepared to do it now, why was it not prepared to do it in December or January? Why cause all that unnecessary hardship? I know why. They needed the results of the election to say suddenly, "Oh, we have converted."

I do not see any mention of how a first contract would be a form of regulation that might drive employers out of the province, yet that is what I have heard from the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller). I have heard him say that publicly on many occasions. That is the attitude they have taken time and again. Suddenly we are expected to believe that somewhere on the road to Damascus—not on the road to Damascus; on the road to Queen's Park—there has been some sort of mass conversion.

They should not expect gratitude, because they have taken too long. It has been too hard a road for too many people who have been outside the system and who do not have a lot of power. There were trucks driving through those picket lines and people going through those lines. There

were men and women who were 18 and 20, and some in their 50s or 60s, who were standing out in the cold for five months. Now they are supposed to get down on their knees and say to the Tory party, "Thank you for finally recognizing first-contract rights." The Tory party should not expect that kind of gratitude, because the government does not deserve it; it is as simple as that. It has come too late.

Then we have the newborn, reborn environmentalists. We had a spill take place in Ontario. I cannot think of a year that has gone by after 1979 when we did not raise a question about the spills bill, as to why they were moving so slowly. We had promises. I want to congratulate the Minister of the Environment (Ms. Fish), the 10th Minister of the Environment since the ministry was created. We have had minister after minister say how he was going to do this and that, but it did not happen.

We had speeches from the ministers. I recall so clearly the now Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Brandt) saying more than a year and a half ago: "We are going to change the fines structure. We are going to make it harder for people to pollute. We are going to make it more expensive." Nothing happened. Instead, we had a policy of suppression of information. We could not get information on what was happening. Reports that have been prepared for years are collecting dust.

I say to my friends in the Liberal Party, I expect and know, because of the commitment to freedom of information that is contained in our accord, that information and those reports are going to see the sunshine and sunlight. We are going to get those reports out in the open and they are not going to be covered up any longer.

The trouble with the Tories is that even when they convert it is more like a rental program than anything else; because we have the speech from the throne one day saying, "Yes, we have converted; now we have to have all these stronger laws." What do we get today on Inco? Do we get a statement saying the government of Ontario, independently and after a thorough examination of what is technically and financially feasible, has determined that we are going to enforce a reduction of 86 per cent over the next five years? Do we have that? No. What do we have? We have a statement from the Minister of the Environment-and this is incredible when one thinks about it-saying the company has already announced a policy at its annual general meeting where it is going to reduce acid gas emissions by 50 per cent by 1994 and the government of Ontario is going to put its little stamp on the bottom of that decision by the company.

That is unbelievable when one thinks about it. What a statement for the Minister of the Environment to make in the Legislature, that it is not the will of the people but the will of the shareholders of Inco that is going to determine how much acid gas is going to be belching out of that smokestack over the next 10 years.

I respect where the Premier comes from and his concern, but it is not good enough. What kind of target is 1,000 tons a day by 1994? That is not a target of which we as Ontarians can be proud when we know the technology is there to get it down much further than that by 1990.

When one looks at what is and what is not in the throne speech, there is justification enough for saying: "It is time to go. It is time to move on. It is time to effect that change. It is time to make the change happen." That is why we determined we were going to make a change happen. We were going to make it as a third party. In a minority parliament we were going to be hard bargainers.

Yes, we were going to bargain. I make no apology. In fact, I am proud of the fact that we determined and said: "Let us play our politics straight up. Let us get it out in the open. Let us get a document out there we can be proud of, that we can say we as a party negotiated and helped to effect. Let us say to the Liberal Party, which wants to form a government and which did win 48 seats and more votes than any other party in the province, 'Yes, we want to effect a change that will allow you to form a government, but we want to be involved in determining some of how that change takes place."

We are not subrogating or abrogating to ourselves some other role. We are simply saying we are not going to play it on the fringes in this province any more. One out of four people in this province voted for the New Democratic Party, and we are determined to have our say and our place at the table. We are determined to play our part in responsible government in the province. That is what this accord is all about. That is why I am proud of the role we have played in negotiating.

I want to set out what is in the accord because I think it is important to get it on the record and because I am proud of what we have said.

First of all, we are not going to play the confidence game in the Legislature for the next two years. I think that is important. There is going to be an opportunity for members of the Conservative, Liberal and New Democratic

parties to play a constructive role in passing legislation.

It is a historic precedent not only for this Legislature but also for other Legislatures in the British Commonwealth to have this kind of a document in place that says the concept of confidence will not be abused by a government in power. We are going to allow back-bench members of all parties to participate in effecting change, changing laws and having amendments go through that reflect not the tyranny of the party whip alone but a genuine consensus of the Legislature.

For the Premier to say there is something undemocratic about that boggles the imagination. This is the most democratic document that one could possibly imagine in terms of the way the Legislature of this province could work while at the same time guaranteeing stable government. We have done that, and I think that is an enormous, precedent-setting achievement, not only for this province but also for other common law parliamentary bodies. That is the cornerstone.

12:20 p.m.

We have moved to an agenda for reform; first of all beginning the implementation on separate school funding, getting the draft legislation out and having the Legislature consider the matter as quickly as possible in letting the public come to it in as broad a way and to have as full a debate and as full a consideration as possible:

It troubles me deeply that, having put the province in this kind of a mess, the Tory party says, "Play by our rules or you are not going to play at all." That, to me, is an affront; it is a disgrace that 360 days after their leader at that time started this process, they would turn around and say, "We are not ready; we are going to do it only on our terms," after the election of May 2. They are going to be judged incredibly harshly for that, and they should be, because they have played partisan politics with something on which we, on our part—and they know it perfectly well—have not done so. We have held back—

Interjection.

Mr. Rae: No. Stand up and say it. Let the member come out and say it if he thinks it is not true. There have been times when we have bit our tongues. I can tell the House that I have told my colleagues, "Do not play politics with this issue." If I may say so, neither has the leader of the Liberal Party. Of course, we have expressed some disagreements about implementation; but when one thinks of what could have been said when this issue was vulnerable, it was not said by

us. It may have been said by an archbishop or two, but it was not said by us. When the archbishop made his remarks, who was the first one to say he should withdraw and he should apologize? I make no apology for it; I was there and asked him to withdraw them, because I thought it was a shameful thing for someone to compare the former Premier of this province to Adolf Hitler.

We have not played politics but now they are doing so. They are going to be judged harshly for that and deserve to be judged harshly for that. For failing to consult, they are going to be judged harshly.

We have said we are going to be introducing programs to create employment and opportunities for young people. We have said doctors in Ontario are going to have to learn that it makes sense for us to have a one-price health care system. If we can have one price in Ontario for beer—and I am hoping we still can in the future—we ought to be able to have one price for medical care and one price for doctors who practise in Ontario. A deal is a deal.

Again, I say the silence in the throne speech on that issue is ominous because it means that the Tory party is again saying it intends—and I do not think there is any other way of interpreting the silence—in a period of opposition to be the defender of special privilege. That is something of which we should all be aware.

We have said not to amend, not to delay and not to put off, but to proclaim the sections of the Environmental Protection Act, the spills bill. The government could have done that yesterday, it could have done it last week, it could have done it today and I believe it would have saved the province a lot of money. I also think it would have saved the province a lot of hardship.

We have said: "Let us move on tenant protection. Let us move on the areas of a rent registry and the four per cent review; and let us also extend rent review so it covers people living in buildings built after 1976." My colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) and I attended a meeting well before the election where we wanted to talk about rent review. Much to our amazement, 500 people came to the meeting. They came because they were living in buildings that were built after 1976 and were facing rental increases of from 15 to 35 per cent with no justification required. I do not think there is a logical reason, given the realities of tenant protection and tenant security in the province today, why those people should be less protected than others. It was with some regret that I noticed the section of the throne speech dealing with this issue did not touch on it.

We have said we have to have legislation for equal pay for work of equal value, not only in the public sector, not only if one works for a crown corporation, but also in the private sector. It is not going to be easy; it is going to require a period of working things through and working them out, but it is something that has to be done.

I have mentioned the first-contract legislation. We have insisted on reforms to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, including the designation and regulation of toxic substances to give workers the right to know about work-place hazards.

We have insisted on an inquiry into why northerners are paying so much more in many communities for their gasoline. We have many northern members in the party. We are proud of the numbers that have been elected from northern Ontario. We have insisted on a commission that will determine why those differentials are there and will try to find ways of making sure that fair prices are being charged and fair prices are being paid.

We have said—and it is hardly a revolutionary request after its existence for 622 years—that the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment should complete its work and publish its report. These reports are of great interest and importance, but it is nice to have them over with, get them out and get them discussed.

Finally—and I am glad my colleague the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) is here, since he is the author of the resolution passed by this House and approved by literally hundreds of municipalities across northern Ontario—we want to have full coverage of medically necessary travel under the Ontario health insurance plan for the residents of northern Ontario. It is not acceptable for people in the north to have to travel hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles and to have to pay that expense out of their own pockets in order to receive the kind of care people in southern Ontario and in large metropolitan centres are able to get without having to pay a user fee.

That is the agenda for reform in the first session. It is an agenda we negotiated and it is an agenda we are proud of. It is an agenda for people. It is an agenda that will provide reforms. It is an agenda that will make a difference.

We also have a longer-term program over the next two years dealing with affirmative action; a housing program for 10,000 units; better controls on pollution; reform of services for the elderly,

including a change in the disgraceful way nursing homes are regulated in this province; a reform of job security legislation; farm financing reform; workers' compensation reform; private pension reform; day care policy, and a real change in the way we audit and deal with the situation in our forests.

I think that is a progressive agenda, and perhaps I could conclude my discussion of this agenda for reform by touching briefly on the kinds of changes we propose for this House and for government itself. I do not mind saying that one of the motivating factors in my sense of why a change was necessary—I was convinced the change was necessary and I am proud of the way in which we have accomplished it—is the sense of a need for political reform in this province. Forty-two years is too long for any one party to be in power.

Given the way the three-party system worked through the 1970s, when I was not here, perhaps the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) can tell us whether there was ever a moment when he thought it was time to effect a change. I do not know; I was not here then. But I am here now, and we are determined to effect that change today and make 1985 the year in which Tory rule in this province is brought to an end because of the need for political reform.

We have to let in the air. We have to let in some sunshine. We need the equivalent of Vatican II in this province. We do, quite sincerely. We need that sense of reform, of movement and of openness, and I do not believe a party that is still clinging on, still believing it has a divine right to govern, is capable of bringing in those kinds of reforms.

Why did a snicker go throughout the House-indeed, I think on both sides of the House-when the select committee on Ontario Hydro was announced? I will tell members why. It is because of the way the government took that committee and slammed it down in 1981 when it had a majority. How do we know it would not do so again in three or four years? That is the whole attitude this government has. When it has to do it, it does it; but when it does not have to do it, it will not do it.

That is the attitude that causes such resentment not simply among private members but among the public itself. That is why we have said we are going to have some new select committees. We are going to have a new standing committee on energy and it is not going to be taken away at the stroke of a pen. We are going to reform the way in which people are appointed, and I am

delighted to hear the leader of the Liberal Party say we are going to see an end to cronyism in Ontario. We have to see an end to cronyism in this province. That is something we take very seriously.

We need election financing reform so we can ensure that there are sensible spending limits and rebates at both the central and local campaign levels. It is ridiculous for parties to be spending thousands and thousands of dollars simply because that is the way the name of the game has increased.

When we go to the United States and see that the only people who get elected to the Senate these days are millionaires, we realize it is important for us to take the next step in reform in this province. The Camp commission took us part of the way, and the implementation of those reforms took us part of the way. Now we have to complete that process in Ontario and provide some reasonable limits so that anybody who wants to run can run, and whether or not one gets elected depends not on how much money one has but on one's ability to speak to the people and get the message across and for the people to express themselves.

12:30 p.m.

I believe we need to have a broadening of the rights of public service workers to participate in political activity. We have suggested other reforms that, because they have been mentioned in the throne speech, I can only assume will now have the support of the Conservative Party. I suspect that as the Conservative Party makes its slow drift across the chamber floor into opposition, its members will suddenly understand why opposition members are as preoccupied as they are with the rights of this assembly, the rights of private members of this assembly, the rights of committees and the importance of the ways in which committees work.

I do not mind saying that I trust 42 years will also have tempered members of the Liberal Party as they take on some of the responsibilities of government, so they will remember where they came from for the last 42 years, and remember what it is like to be a private member and the importance of our protecting the rights of each individual member in this place and ensuring that the minority parliament becomes a genuinely democratic assembly, in which the views of all are taken seriously and all are encouraged not simply to participate but to have their views heard and taken seriously.

I have no doubt there will be some bitterness on the other side. I have some experience in these

matters. I speak as one, as has been mentioned, who has played a role in the defeat of another government which resulted in a change. I say to the members of the Conservative Party I genuinely believe it is not simply in the interest of one party or another, but also in the interest of the political process of this province, broadly defined, that there be a political change.

When I come right down to it, I suppose one of the things that has motivated me since I came into this place is that it is simply not healthy for the political process to have one party in power for 42 years without interruption and without change. I recall a columnist in the gallery who said on many occasions that that is what the people have voted for. That is true in a sense, but we have a three-party system.

I am sure members of the Liberal Party will know that members on all sides have said: "It is a three-party system in transition. One of the other parties is going down somewhere and eventually, one day, there will be a two-party system and then there will be a change." I know there are those who will draw their own conclusions from this election and from the prospects of future elections. I enjoy reading all the prognostications that say: "You will be damned if you do this and you will be damned if you do that. If you do, this is going to happen or that is going to happen."

My very strong feeling is that the three-party system in Ontario is here to stay. As leader of the New Democratic Party, I was determined that the three-party system would not be used simply as a prop for one-party rule. If that is allowed to continue too long, I believe a social democratic party such as ours would lose its credibility as an instrument of change and reform.

I believe we made a historic decision. We said: "There is going to be a change and we are going to play a role in effecting that change. We are going to make a deliberate choice. We are not choosing one party because we want to join that party. We are allowing the party that won the most votes in the last election to form a government and we are determined to play our critical role to ensure that the changes we were elected to effect take place in the period of the agreement we have signed. That is what the process is all about."

I can understand the bitterness and the confusion on the other side. I can understand them saying there is a constitutional issue here. The only constitutional issue that is bothering the Tory party is the divine right of kings. That is the one issue that troubles them. That is the only one there is.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is idiotic. The member is antediluvian.

Mr. Rae: If the Treasurer thinks she knows more about the Constitution than Eugene Forsey, her arrogance knows no bounds.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I did not say that.

Mr. Rae: All I am saying is we have effected a change and we expect things to change around here. We have been an instrument of reform and we have seen that the Constitution is not some dead thing that has a coat of armour on it and just lies on us like some great beast from 700 years ago, but is a living tree that reforms because people want it to reform, want it to change and want to make it work.

I am enormously proud, and I say this given the realities of May 2, which were as much a reality for me personally as for the leader of the Conservative Party and the leader of the Liberal Party, that out of that election we as a party were able to effect a change and able to say to our own people, the people who have supported us—if I may be partisan for a moment—if this is what we were able to achieve with 25 seats, think what we could achieve with 35, 45 or 55 seats. That is the message we will be taking to the people and continue to take to the people.

I say to the Tory party, the old order changes and that too must pass and that too must come. This is something that has to be accepted and seen as part of the democratic process, the democratic will of the people. When 63 per cent of the people have spoken, it is a very vain and shortsighted party indeed that says, "There is something undemocratic about what is going on around here." There is nothing undemocratic about it at all; it is an expression of the will of the people. That is what this reform and this process of change have been all about.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the member for Oakville (Mr. O'Connor) and the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland) for having moved the acceptance of the speech from the throne. I am sorry we do not agree, but there will be other occasions, I am sure, when we will get a chance to reflect on that. I want to welcome them both into the House.

The member for Oakville is not here at the moment, but we were walking together in the tornado relief brigade yesterday morning and he recalled that he and I are both former members of the House of Commons, along with the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) and the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Bossy). I welcome him to the House and welcome the member for Mississauga South. She succeeds, as

I am sure we all recognize, a member for whom we all have enormous affection, Mr. Kennedy, and we wish her and the member for Oakville well in their political careers. We wish them well on this side of the House, and I am sure they will enjoy it just as much as they are enjoying it over there.

I would like to move an amendment in the light of what I have said and in the light of what happened on and since May 2, 1985.

12:40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Rae moves, seconded by Mr. McClellan, that Mr. Peterson's amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the

opening of the session be further amended by adding the following words between the words "But" and "it" in the amendment:

"since the Miller Conservative government, even while borrowing frantically from the policies of other parties, has failed to provide progressive leadership for Ontario, and failed to deal with the major challenges facing the province; and since it is the responsibility of this Legislature to reflect the democratic will of the people as expressed in the election of May 2, 1985."

On motion by Hon. Miss Stephenson, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

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No. 4



Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 33rd Parliament Monday, June 10, 1985

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, June 10, 1985

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

DEATH OF WILLIAM E. HAMILTON

Mr. Ferraro: It is with great regret that I speak my first words in this House on the subject of the unfortunate death of William E. Hamilton, Sr., who died last Saturday. Mr. Hamilton, the representative of Wellington South in this Legislature from 1945 to 1955, served as Minister of Reform Institutions and as vice-chairman of Ontario Hydro. Mr. Hamilton had previously served on the municipal council in Guelph as an alderman and as mayor.

I know all members of this Legislature will share with me the sympathy and condolences that are extended to his family and friends.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

Hon. Mr. McCague: As Ontario's Minister of Transportation and Communications, I have been very impressed by the detailed presentations made by executives of the Ontario Good Roads Association, better known as OGRA, and by the Ontario chapter of The Road Information Program, a group consisting of roadbuilders and municipal engineers. Both groups have expressed their genuine concern about the problems facing transportation in this province of ours.

From my travels around Ontario, I too am concerned, whether such problems relate to Ottawa-Carleton and its transit and highway needs, to Kitchener-Waterloo and its requirements on Highway 401 and Highway 8, or to the extension of the new four-lane divided highway from North Bay south through Callander, where there are capacity problems.

There is also Highway 69, one of the the primary tourist routes to central and northern Ontario, requiring expansion to meet year-round capacity requirements. In addition, there is the necessity of continuing to reconstruct the Highway 35-115 route to Peterborough as a four-lane divided entry to the Kawarthas. This, I do not have to point out, is critical to the support of that area's economic development. Then there is the Metro problem and its congestion, where we

have half the entire province's motor vehicle population.

Faced with this kind of dilemma, and following instructions from the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller), I requested that my former deputy minister, Harold Gilbert, who is with me today and to whom I would like to pay tribute on his retirement, review all our options with a view to alleviating such massive problems and to determining whether it was possible to free up funds committed to long-term transportation projects.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications' major long-term financial commitment is to GO advanced light rail transit, requiring some \$100 million annually. GO-ALRT was conceived as the total transportation system that would, over considerable construction time, guarantee mass transit for the greater Metro population, including the regional municipalities of Durham, Peel, Halton, Hamilton-Wentworth and York.

At that time there were critics who indicated that the Ontario government was ignoring the use of already-in-place Canadian National and Canadian Pacific trackage. There was no choice at that time, not when the costs of using in-place rail lines were considered. Both rail companies dictated the conditions under which rail commuter service could be introduced, and that meant GO Transit could not control service frequency or growth. We took the only alternative, namely, to acquire our own rights of way to extend and expand intercity service.

However, I now have been assured by the federal government that it is proceeding swiftly to draft commuter rail legislation that will allow all of Canada's provinces access to the national rail infrastructure at a reasonable rate and with a long-term commitment.

Specifically, as I understand it, the new legislation will give commuter service a high priority over freight traffic. The charges to GO Transit will be much less than the current arrangements with Canadian National and Canadian Pacific. Coupled with the necessity to provide much-needed services in the shortest possible time, it permits us to save tax dollars and meet a shorter implementation schedule.

Therefore, using the considerable funds committed to GO-ALRT, I am proposing the following:

The extension of GO rail services to Oshawa, employing rail with double-deckers as is done on the rest of the lakeshore run. That will proceed as quickly as possible, using the new grade currently under construction on the newly acquired right of way. The adoption of this approach will permit the introduction of systems much earlier than previously scheduled. Conventional rail will also be introduced in the existing CN rights of way to accelerate the western extension to Burlington.

With regard to service to Hamilton, the government will sit down with Hamilton and Hamilton-Wentworth to determine the appropriate service that will best serve their requirements.

GO Transit, too, has identified other urgent needs: the upgrading and increase of service on the Richmond Hill, Milton and Georgetown lines.

To turn now to other local transit initiatives, the Toronto Transit Commission will be presenting its priorities to Metro council in the near future, and my proposals will allow us to assist it to proceed with its transportation needs.

Then there is Mississauga's proposal for a busway linking the city centre to the Kipling subway station. To the north of Metro, where development is accelerating, there is a priority need to commence Highway 407 as funds permit.

I list these projects, never forgetting the points I made earlier that the available funds will also be used to remedy transportation problems existing elsewhere in Ontario, problems critical to every resident and business using our all-Ontario system.

Finally, this new proposal allows us to shorten drastically the implementation time, using GO Transit rolling stock, double-deckers to be built in Thunder Bay, and that means employment in the northwest.

TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION RECIPROCAL ACCESS LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Pope: I am today introducing the Transboundary Pollution Reciprocal Access Act. This bill is part of Ontario's continuing program of measures concerning transboundary pollution. It aims to provide more effective access to the courts in situations where pollution from one jurisdiction causes harm in another. Pollution does not recognize provincial or international boundary lines. The resolution of pollution problems therefore requires co-operation be-

tween different jurisdictions. The bill I am introducing today is an example of this cooperation.

Currently, technical jurisdictional barriers prevent Ontario residents from suing outside Ontario for pollution damage when the pollution comes from across a provincial or international boundary. The common law requires that court actions based on trespass, nuisance or negligent injury to land be brought in the jurisdiction where the land is located. Ontario residents who find their lakes, forests or farms affected by pollution from another jurisdiction must therefore sue in Ontario. A decision of an Ontario court, however, is unlikely to prove very effective against the polluter located in another jurisdiction.

2:10 p.m.

Similar difficulties face residents of other jurisdictions who are affected by pollution originating in Ontario. The other provinces of Canada and most of the American states recognize the same common law jurisdictional barriers. The Transboundary Pollution Reciprocal Access Act eliminates these barriers and provides equal access to courts and tribunals for persons affected by pollution originating in another jurisdiction.

These rights are granted on a reciprocal basis. In other words, rights to sue in Ontario are given only to residents of jurisdictions that give similar rights to Ontario residents. In this way, the act gives the people of Ontario access to courts outside Ontario if they are damaged by pollution coming from a reciprocal jurisdiction.

The Transboundary Pollution Reciprocal Access Act is not intended to create any new causes of action. It seeks to ensure that the technical rules do not prevent pollution from being pursued.

The act also provides that when court proceedings are brought in the jurisdiction where the alleged pollution actually originated, the local law of that jurisdiction will apply. This means an alleged polluter, sued in the jurisdiction where the alleged pollution originated, will be governed by the substantive laws of that jurisdiction.

In so far as the courts of that state are concerned, the defendant has the opportunity to defend the action on the basis of the substantive and procedural rules with which he is most familiar. For example, an Ontario company sued in Ontario by a resident of another jurisdiction would be governed exclusively by Ontario substantive and procedural laws.

In essence, the act equates the rights of an extrajurisdictional pollution victim to those of a

victim who is a resident of the jurisdiction. The rights of nonresidents will be no higher than those of residents.

The Transboundary Pollution Reciprocal Access Act is the product of more than three years' collaboration between American and Canadian representatives. The act has been recommended by both the American and Canadian Uniform Law Conferences. The states of Montana, Colorado and New Jersey have already enacted the legislation. I hope Ontario will be the first Canadian province to do so.

The problems of acid rain and other forms of transboundary pollution are immensely complex and difficult. The enactment of this legislation will not eliminate these problems. Nevertheless, the Transboundary Pollution Reciprocal Access Act represents a significant step. It demonstrates that jurisdictions affected by transboundary pollution can work side by side towards the common goal of enhancing the quality of our environment. Together with other measures, it illustrates our clear and firm commitment to attacking the problems of pollution on all fronts.

Mr. Speaker: I ask the honourable members to refrain from or at least to cut back their private conversations.

ONTARIO FINANCES

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Under ordinary circumstances the 1985 Ontario budget, containing the interim results for the 1984-85 fiscal year, would have been tabled in May. As this year's budget will not be presented until June 25, I am pleased to table today the final quarterly Ontario Finances, showing the interim results for 1984-85. Final audited results will be published in late summer in Ontario's financial report.

I am happy to report that the deficit of this province is down once again. It is down both from its 1983-84 level of \$2.3 billion and from our original budget estimate for 1984-85 of \$2 billion. The net cash requirements of the province were reduced by more than \$300 million from our original 1984-85 plan and currently stand at \$1.7 billion, almost \$600 million below the 1983-84 level. Stronger-thananticipated economic performance and continued spending control were major factors underlying this performance.

Meanwhile, the total expenditures remained essentially on target and increased by \$90 million, or 0.3 per cent, from our original budget estimate. This performance was achieved notwithstanding the government's expenditure in-

creases of \$162 million in the important areas of health spending and income support.

Revenues, which have been projected at \$24.8 billion for 1984-85, reached \$25.2 billion by fiscal year-end, as economic growth improved yields. Higher-than-expected growth in corporate profits and strong growth in purchases of durable goods, particularly automobiles, were important factors behind this improvement.

Revenues from corporate income tax were up by \$306 million. The yield from retail sales tax was increased by \$187 million. The majority of the in-year revenue improvements were applied to the reduction of net cash requirements.

Ontario's recent economic performance has been remarkable. We are in the midst of a sound and substantial recovery. Furthermore, we are poised for a third continuous year of growth. In the face of record high real interest rates and worldwide uncertainty about the durability of economic institutions, Ontario's real gross provincial product increased by 5.2 per cent in 1983 and by six per cent in 1984. Last year's growth rate was the best since 1972.

The strong and continuing growth of the economy has generated increasing employment opportunities for Ontarians. As a result, unemployment in Ontario has dropped from 9.3 per cent one year ago to 7.7 per cent in May 1985. This is the lowest rate of unemployment in Canada.

Since the end of the recession in November 1982, Ontario has created 455,000 new jobs. Our job creation has been particularly strong in comparison to other parts of Canada. Since November 1982, employment here has increased by 11.4 per cent, while employment in the rest of Canada has increased by 6.1 per cent. Ontario by itself has accounted for 54 per cent of all the jobs created in Canada over this period.

Most of these new jobs have been full-time jobs. In 1984 more than 87 per cent of the employment increase in Ontario consisted of full-time jobs. Manufacturing made the largest single contribution to job creation last year in Ontario, accounting for 55,000 of the 147,000 new jobs generated by the Ontario economy.

Ontario's recent strong job creation record has helped to improve the employment outlook for the province's young people. While still intolerably high, the youth unemployment rate dropped by three percentage points in 1984, and that trend continues. Over the past 12 months, the number of unemployed young people in Ontario has dropped by 39,000. This improvement lowered Ontario's youth unemployment rate to 12.9 per

cent, again the lowest youth unemployment rate in Canada.

Improving the employment prospects for our youth has been and continues to be a priority concern of this government. In the speech from the throne we announced our intention to carry forward our funding commitment to Ontario Youth Opportunities under the new Ministry of Skills Development. We also announced our intention to include in the budget an additional \$100-million employment and training supplement to permit the Ministry of Skills Development to take further action. Our young people are a major target group of this initiative.

The most recent evidence indicates that strong economic growth is continuing in this province. Since December 31, 1984, Ontario employment has risen by 114,000, an increase of 2.6 per cent. In the rest of the country the growth rate was one per cent. The recent announcement that Canada's real gross national product grew at a 3.7 per cent annual rate in the first quarter of 1985 is further welcome confirmation that growth is continuing.

The broadly based nature of the recovery in Ontario's economy bodes well for the durability of growth. Consumers are increasingly confident in their future economic wellbeing. A dynamic business sector is prepared to invest in that future. In addition, Ontario's healthy competitive position has produced a strong export performance. All these factors have been key components of our economic resurgence.

2:20 p.m.

Consumer spending was an essential ingredient in last year's impressive performance. The disposable income of Ontario households grew by 8.7 per cent in 1984, an increase of well over four per cent after inflation. This fuelled a strong increase in consumer spending, an increase reflected in retail sales growth of 10.2 per cent.

While our growth has been broadly based, there is no doubt the leading force in the first stages of the recovery was the increase in our exports. In 1984, exports of goods and services increased by more than 25 per cent over the previous year. The strength of our exports was closely linked to the health of the US economy, and in particular to our automotive sector. Last year, the production of passenger cars in Canada increased by seven per cent while truck production surged by more than 47 per cent. As a result, auto production reached an all-time high in 1984.

Also, the strength of the Ontario economy was evident in most of our other key industries. The steel industry showed strong performance. Steel production and shipments by the three largest

producers increased by some 13 per cent in 1984. Anticipated strength in the energy sector and nonresidential construction are expected to provide a further impetus to this industry.

In the forestry sector, crown timber harvests reached a modern-day record of some 20 million cubic metres. This reflected a 10 per cent increase in Ontario's pulp and paper output, thanks to improved domestic demand and exports to the United States. Despite intense competition in the lumber sector, Ontario's lumber output also expanded last year.

In the mining industry also, there was strong growth during 1984. The value of minerals production increased from \$3.6 billion in 1983 to \$4.4 billion, an improvement of 24 per cent. Indications are that the industry will demonstrate further growth in 1985 as the price of major base metals shows signs of strength in international markets.

Ontario net farm income increased by 13 per cent last year, helping to strengthen this vital sector of our economy.

The fact that this economic performance is not transitory is demonstrated by the decisions of our manufacturers to undertake major new job-creating investments in Ontario. The Canadian auto industry is planning to spend about \$1.2 billion on new plant and equipment in 1985. Most of this investment will take place in Ontario. These business decisions are based upon the reality of Ontario's strong competitive position and our secure access to international markets.

Other industries are also confirming their confidence in the Ontario economy through their investment plans. Last year, business spending for machinery and equipment grew by more than eight per cent while nonresidential construction increased by almost 14 per cent.

Most manufacturing industries have announced plans to further boost investment in 1985. For example, the primary metals industry intends to increase its investment spending by more than 160 per cent. Ontario's steel industry is in the process of modernizing and will be investing about \$1.25 billion over the next few years. Overall, business investment plans for 1985 are up by more than 10 per cent compared with 1984.

The forces behind this resurgence include the continued growth of demand, improved corporate financial positions and rising business confidence. Moreover, the strength of investment will ensure that Ontario industry remains competitive in world markets.

I believe the policies we have implemented and our record of fiscal management have been an underlying source of strength in securing and sustaining Ontario's economic recovery. We have established in this province a climate of confidence and an environment for business growth and development that have allowed us to solidify our economic base and to capitalize on emerging opportunities.

As well, we have constrained the growth of government and reduced the size of our bureaucracy. In so doing, we have retained the flexibility to maintain and enhance the quality and standards of our social and economic infrastructure and to take discretionary action to assist economic recovery. In 1975 the government of Ontario employed 87,109 public servants. Today there are 80,131. Meanwhile, the level of our deficit on a per capita basis is the lowest of any province in Canada.

In summary, Ontario's record of fiscal and economic management is one of which we can be justly proud. The report I am tabling today fully supports that view.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ONTARIO FINANCES

Mr. Conway: My first question is to the Treasurer. I note in the accompanying documentation to her statement that table 3 under General Government indicates there has been a \$100-million reduction in the allocation to the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development account. Can the Treasurer indicate what that \$100-million reduction speaks to?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: These are programs that did not need funding at the rate that had been established initially; it was primarily a delay in flowing funds which accounted for that.

Mr. Conway: The minister will know there has been great interest in this assembly with regard to the specifics of the BILD account. The assembly has waited with great interest for the third and fourth annual reports of BILD but such reports have not been made available by her predecessor. I am just wondering if she will give a commitment today to release an updated version of the BILD account so we can more particularly understand what projects have been favoured with support and what projects have been either cancelled or delayed.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We are working on that right at the moment. It is my hope it will be ready within a short time.

Mr. Foulds: Can the minister explain to us why, subsequent to the announcements first made back in 1980 about Ontario improving its port facilities along the Great Lakes through BILD, none of those projects has come to fruition?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is my understanding those have been primarily discussed and will be developed through joint action at the federal-provincial level since the Great Lakes are international waters. There have been certain developments in certain port areas on the Great Lakes which relate primarily to private boating rather than to international shipping.

Mr. Conway: I just want to be clear. Can the minister explain why the assembly has not had the opportunity to review the BILD account? Where are these annual reports, which were offered so freely in the first two years of the new world? Can she be more specific as to when she intends to help us with the release of that information?

Mr. Nixon: My friend is embarrassing her.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh no, he is not embarrassing me at all. It is my understanding most of the information sought by the honourable member is currently available or was available last year through the estimates process; but I shall certainly explore that question and report to the House.

Mr. Conway: I have a second question for the Treasurer. I have been looking in the statement for some reference to an important aspect of the remarkable financial practices of this current government; and that, of course, is the Suncor account. I cannot find it, but it is probably here somewhere.

Can the current Treasurer bring the Legislature up to date on the Ontario government investment—

Mr. McClellan: They worked out of the same office.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Place your question, please.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Conway: Can the current Treasurer indicate, for example, whether she agrees with her immediate predecessor, the now Minister of Education (Mr. Grossman), who said on November 7, 1984, that the value of the Ontario government shares in Suncor was "at 60 per cent of the original purchase price"? Can she update that statement of the current value of our investment in Suncor?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sorry, I cannot give a precise figure at the present time. It is probably somewhere about that or slightly lower, but I would have to explore the current figure.

Mr. Conway: While she is undertaking to inquire after those data, can she also confirm that, as of this weekend, the gross borrowing costs for this \$650-million 25 per cent interest in Suncor are now running in excess of \$325 million?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I will seek that information and report.

Mr. Rae: In accounting for the economic miracle the Treasurer has described in this quasi, would-be, could-be budget statement she has made today, and in talking about the reduction in the deficit of about \$337 million, I wonder why she failed to observe the fact that payments from the federal government went up by some \$320 million. Why is that not contained as an explanation for the miracle she has put forward in terms of the reduction of the deficit? I am a little surprised at her shyness in talking about the changes in transfer payments being the explanation of what happened.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is primarily because there was almost a balancing out by the fact personal income tax flow to the province was reduced by close to \$700 million last year as a result of calculations and other activities. I am not the least bit concerned that I did not mention that specifically. It will be mentioned specifically in all the information that will be revealed at the time of the presentation of the budget.

There is one good reason and it is not a miracle. It has been by dint of very hard work by a large number of people that the economic performance of Ontario has improved dramatically over the past three years. That hard work has been on the part of a great many people in the private sector and a large number of people within the public service and within the government of Ontario. We have worked diligently to provide the kind of atmosphere that would encourage the private sector to do just what it is doing: invest in its industry in Ontario for the benefit of Ontarians.

Mr. Conway: It is now two and a half months since the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) indicated that, in his first step to sell off the province's share in Suncor, he would be "asking a prominent firm whether there is a market for the province's share in Suncor." Can the Treasurer indicate or report what the success of her Premier has been in seeking out that prominent firm,

whether it has produced an assessment and, if such an assessment has been made, whether she is prepared to table it in the assembly?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I cannot provide that answer today because I have not asked the Premier, but I shall do that.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Premier. Given the number of promises made in the speech from the throne it would be difficult to say something was left out, but there were some things not contained in it and one of them I would like to ask the Premier about is the question of extra billing.

Both the present Minister of Health (Mr. Andrewes) and his predecessor, now the Attorney General (Mr. Pope), have stated publicly on several occasions this is something the Tory party is having some second thoughts about and will have to review, given the cost to the people of this province of some \$50 million a year.

How does the Premier explain the complete silence on extra billing in the throne speech, particularly given that there is a statement in it that "it is my government's obligation to maintain health care quality and universality by continuing review and new initiatives"?

Why has the throne speech said nothing about dealing with extra billing, which surely offends the principles of universality and the quality of health care in Ontario?

Hon. F. S. Miller: When I was in the lockup, and I assume that one of the honourable member's researchers was there before the throne speech was read in the House, that question was asked by the press, because they had recognized the absence of that item some weeks before the member did.

The answer I gave then was basically that a number of issues had to be considered. Currently about five per cent of the Ontario health insurance plan's gross billings are extra billed or not billed through the plan, although about 12 per cent of the physicians are opted out.

Second, when the federal government passed the Canada Health Act it allowed some three years for the provinces to change and comply with the act to qualify for the exemptions from the penalty clause currently in the Canada Health Act, i.e. that for every dollar of extra billing by a physician in a province the province shall forfeit a dollar of federal money.

Third, we were in the middle of negotiations with the Ontario Medical Association for its annual adjustment of fees. As a person who is a

labour lawyer, the member opposite will understand there is often a need to keep as few distracting influences as possible away from the central negotiations. That was a valid reason. Those negotiations concluded after the throne speech was written, within a couple of days of its presentation.

Fourth, we needed to look at a series of effects of the abolition of extra billing. We had to take a look at the effect upon the physicians who might leave our province and the three-year time frame allowed for that. We had to take a look at the effect upon research funds in the case of those physicians who extra billed in hospitals and then gave the funds to the hospitals for research.

We felt the wisdom of the federal government in establishing a three-year transition period and the other considerations with regard to quality health care and the presence of physicians in Ontario merited the use of this negotiating time wisely to make sure we maintain the high quality of health care in Ontario.

Mr. Rae: I do not think the Premier has understood. I am asking for a simple answer to a simple question: Is the Tory party still in favour of extra billing or is it now opposed to it? What is the answer to that question?

Hon. F. S. Miller: All I can say to my friend is that if he is going to run the government, as I am told he is—in fact, I understand that either he or the leader of the Liberals turns up each day; there is no need for both of them in the House on the same day, is there? He has been away for two days; the member opposite has been here. Pleasant.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: If the member opposite is going to have black and white answers like that to the health care system during the tenure of the "social alliance party" in this province, we are going to have a lot of trouble.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sweeney: May I ask the Premier how it is that the provinces of Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have successfully concluded arrangements with their doctors to end extra billing in those jurisdictions? Is it because they started earlier and were determined to end it? How were they able to do it while Ontario has not been able to do so?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I suggest to the honourable member that it is a function of the size and complexity of the health care system. There is quite a difference between our province and any of the ones he named. Indeed, we are fortunate enough in this province to have the highest-quality health care in Canada, the greatest diversity and the most highly skilled professionals in the whole country. Before the member jumps too quickly, he should make sure he does not send them out of the country.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Rae: I still think we are entitled to an answer to the simple, basic question. We were told by the now Attorney General, who was briefly the Minister of Health for the spectacular period during the election campaign, and by the current Minister of Health after the election, that there was going to be a serious review and a change of heart. We certainly had a lot of indications publicly that there had been a change of heart.

Has this change of heart taken place or have they simply gone back to the old, fundamentalist Tory view that there is a sacred relationship between a very few doctors and their wallets and they have no intention of extending universality in the health care system to ensure we have one price for health care in the province? Where does the government stand on the basic issues?

Hon. F. S. Miller: My friend did not listen to the first answer, which I thought was quite comprehensive and explained the existing situation. We concluded the negotiations on the Friday before the Tuesday of the throne speech and the two events were not overlapping in terms of negotiations on the positions. We have been reviewing it for about 10 months, since the Canada Health Act was passed.

Mr. Rae: I am delighted to hear negotiations with the Ontario Medical Association have concluded. Perhaps the Premier could take this occasion to tell us the results of those negotiations.

Hon. F. S. Miller: They were in the press. Where is the member's research department?

Mr. Rae: I am asking the Premier to explain to the House the logic of entering into discussions and negotiations with the Ontario Medical Association when the issue of extra billing is not put on the table. What logic is there in having a serious discussion in good faith with the OMA if the government is not even prepared to talk about those things? Is extra billing being considered or not? Why is it not being discussed? Surely that has to be part of the negotiations.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am mystified by the apparent lack of information today on that side of

the House. The press carried the results of the negotiations for fees. It was a continuation of the negotiations the Treasurer of the day had two and one half years ago, in 1982. They had stipulated points at which negotiations should carry on regarding fees. They carried on and they were announced and published in the newspapers.

At the same time, almost since the day the Canada Health Act was brought in by the government of Canada, we have been discussing the implications for Ontario. I understand some \$50 million is held in reserve for last year against that contingency, although one cannot say whether that is accurate. Obviously we have a vested interest in getting that money.

The quality of health care in this province is a very important issue. We believe we have the very best and we do not want to make a jump—

Mr. Warner: You are sidestepping again.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am not sidestepping it. Mr. Warner: Sure you are and you know it.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am protecting the member. He is the kind of guy who needs the odd specialist. The member should sit down and

Mr. Speaker: Order.

show a little decorum in this House.

Mr. Sweeney: Could the Premier indicate to what degree that \$50 million in forgone revenue is responsible for the disastrous state of the relationships between his government and the hospitals of this province, to the effect that 187 hospitals indicated in a meeting about three or four weeks ago they are all going to be seriously underfunded, and that the present state of negotiations does not even include a provision for increases in salaries for their staff? To what extent is that a factor of not getting that \$50 million plus?

Hon. F. S. Miller: If my colleague is accurate in his predictions he will have an opportunity to look at that from another viewpoint shortly. If one wants to look at budgets that have exceeded inflation in terms of transfers year after year after year, it is Ontario's hospital budgets. There is 7.5 to 7.7 per cent growth and the member knows it.

Mr. Rae: When the political events in this province became clear the government said: "Okay, let us take extra billing and any discussions of that off the table with the Ontario Medical Association. Let us reach whatever agreement we can with them while pretending this is not an issue. Let us not take a position and head into opposition." Thus it has left itself open to continue to oppose what is clearly in the interests of the vast majority of people of this

province, what is desired by the vast majority of the people of this province, and that is an end to the practice whereby a very small number of physicians continue to impose user fees on patients who simply are there because they are sick.

While he is the Premier and in a position to do something about an issue, why will the Premier not finally come to grips with the fact the vast majority of the people of this province are opposed to that kind of user fee? They are opposed to taxes on sick people. Why does the Premier not do something about it before he leaves office, rather than simply arming himself, as he is? He is going to be allying himself with the OMA in opposition to what is clearly in the best interests of the people of this province, and that is an end to extra-billing in Ontario?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Consistently I have had some cause at some time to differ with the OMA. If the leader of the third party goes back into my history as a minister, he will find this government has continued to maintain only one objective, and that is the guarantee of access to the finest health care system in this province. We have accomplished it. We have a very great group of physicians in this province. As citizens we have benefited; very seldom is there a case where a doctor extra bills an indigent person.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Epp: I have a question for the Premier. The Premier is surely aware government support for the production of nonprofit and co-operative housing for low income families in Ontario is shrinking to an alarming level. Since the federal budget of May 23 contained absolutely nothing in the way of affordable housing, can the Premier tell us what efforts he or the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Hon. Mr. Timbrell) made with their Tory counterparts in Ottawa, if any, to include provision for affordable housing in that budget, and why they failed?

Hon. F. S. Miller: One never knows they have failed until the budget comes out, as the member may discover himself. Because the Treasurer and the Premier happen to be privy to most of the contents, I assume the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance are.

If the member read the throne speech, and I hope he did, he would have noticed that Ontario has pledged \$400 million over five years to the creation of rental housing, subsidized as required, to make sure there is a better stock of housing. The member will also find we encour-

aged the federal government to be a partner in that, as they have been in the past.

The member will also note that the moment the budget came out federally I pointed out that one of the shortcomings from my point of view was the fact it did not attack housing vigorously enough and, therefore, I said we would have to adjust our approach to do that, and we did so in our throne speech and would in our budget.

Mr. Epp: Since we are now looking at an all-time record high level of 14,000 people on the waiting list for affordable housing in the city of Toronto alone, and since the federal housing minister said only a week or two ago that he will not be spending any additional money on affordable housing in the near future, will the Premier explain how he intends to improve Ottawa's performance in that area?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I know the limits of my authority. As the Premier of this province, my responsibility is to bring our message to that government forcefully. Maybe we will do so. We took action almost immediately from our point of view. We will do it unilaterally if necessary, but one hopes it will be done bilaterally. Let me assure the member that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, who feels very strongly about this, is continuing—

Mr. Sweeney: Davis did better with Trudeau.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kerrio: You are not doing very well with your kissing cousins down there.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The member will have a lot of chances to find out if he likes their kisses. 2:50 p.m.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Wildman: I have a question for the Minister of Labour related to the death of Michael Trudel, a young operator of underground heavy equipment at Denison Mines, on Tuesday, May 28, when he was struck by loose.

Could the minister explain why the provincial Ministry of Labour still has not implemented the recommendations made several years ago to the Burkett commission that underground equipment be equipped with cages and sway bars? Does the minister not realize that the life of this young underground worker might have been saved if overhead protection had been installed in the scoop tram he was operating?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I know the member would want to express the same concern about the safety of all miners, not only those who happen to be in the scoop-tram apparatus. That is the very issue

addressed by the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

The member will recall that the Burkett commission, which was set up several years ago, made a number of recommendations, most of which, by the way, have been implemented. To make certain there was general agreement that the significant ones had been implemented, my predecessor, the honourable Russell Ramsay, held a joint meeting with management and labour over this issue and it was agreed that an ad hoc committee would be set up to look at certain areas. There was agreement there should be further pursuit of initiatives with respect to certain matters.

One of those areas dealt with ground control and emergency procedures. That joint management-labour committee will be reporting within the next few weeks on any recommendations it has from people on the job who are exposed to these risks so the government can deal with those things.

There were a number of other issues discussed over which there is still some disagreement, but we hope those matters can be resolved. With respect to the issue of ground control and underground safety, the report from management and labour is expected soon. I hope one of the things it will address is the issue the member is talking about. Recent events make it very important and place an obligation on all of us to make certain underground miners receive whatever protection is available from the technology available today.

Mr. Wildman: Is the minister aware that two years ago a recommendation was made as a result of the inquest into the death of Gary Guilbeault at Rio Algom in Elliot Lake that overhead protection be installed on underground heavy equipment? The United Steelworkers of America have been pressing the ministry for years to implement this proposal and as recently as a week or two ago passed an emergency resolution addressed to the minister requesting that cages and roll bars be installed on underground equipment.

Is the minister not aware this kind of proposal can be implemented by the minister without having to wait for the report of the commission on underground safety to which he referred?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: There is no suggestion the government is reticent about introducing measures that will result in increased protection for miners. As I said, management and labour have set up a joint committee and will be reporting within the next week or two, very shortly. We will proceed from there. I am not arguing about

whether we should do anything; that never has been an argument. We will be proceeding with it in a matter of hours, days, weeks or months. How long do we have? Will the member tell me that right here?

Mr. McClellan: You have had 42 years.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I am not talking to you. I talked to you before and I did not like what you told me. I do not like talking to you any more.

Mr. Wildman: Come on. A young man is dead. Do not play games with the life of a person.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the question has been answered. Order.

TIMMINS HOSPITAL

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Health has a reply to a question previously asked, I am not sure by whom.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: The member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) posed a question to me last Thursday regarding alleged conflict of interest in the signing of a contract with an architect for the new Timmins hospital. On May 29 four firms were interviewed by that hospital board. The board unanimously moved to support the proposal of Parkin/Smith. A proposed contract was given to the ministry's representatives for formal review and approval.

I should explain at this time that a contract agreement is between the board and the architect. The ministry reviews these contracts for boards only to ensure the proposals are in general agreement with ministry guidelines for payment of the basic fee for service, reimbursable expenses and a definition of the scope of services.

Does the member want me to go on? Does he want a fuller answer than that?

Subsequent to the board's decision to engage Parkin/Smith, John Huggins, the chairman of the Timmins board, advised that certain individuals were claiming that Mr. Smith was given the job because he was the husband of Linda Smith, who was a member of that board. Ms. Smith is the former wife of Mr. Smith. After a long separation, it is my understanding that Mr. Smith has remarried, and that Ms. Smith is being remarried this summer.

It is my understanding that the selection of an architect is the board's responsibility. The board members have met and reviewed their decision; they have sought legal advice and they have reconfirmed their original decision.

Mr. Speaker: That seemed to be a very complete answer, but, supplementary.

Mr. Sweeney: I am almost afraid to ask about the next stage.

It is my understanding, and I would ask the minister to confirm or deny it, that when the application reached his office, or the office of whichever of his officials has to put his signature on it, there was no fee figure for the architect. When the architect was contacted, he indicated the official or the minister could put in whatever fee figure he wanted. There seems to be something highly irregular about the whole process. I still do not believe we have had an answer about the conflict of interest. Surely, under those circumstances, Linda Smith should have declared a conflict.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I have no way of commenting further with respect to the conflict of interest. The board sought legal advice and reconfirmed its decision after receiving that legal advice. From the standpoint of the ministry's involvement, I outlined that in a full way in my previous answer but, if the member so wishes, I will seek further information regarding that contract or the fee. The fee is subject to the board and the architect reaching agreement.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Does the minister not understand that one of the major problems in the planning of this hospital in Timmins has been the interference by the member for that riding? He appointed the interim board; he has now appointed the executive director. The conflict of interest and the problems of that board flow directly from the interference in this process of the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope).

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: The honourable member is incorrect on three different points he just made.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That is a matter of opinion and certainly not a matter of fact.

Would the minister not understand that in order to solve the problems of the planning for this hospital he should ask for the resignation of that board and let a community board be appointed that would be representative of the community instead of representative of the member for Cochrane South and the Conservative Party?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I cannot comment on the political makeup of the board short of saying that my understanding is that the board includes a former Liberal candidate and the president of the local Liberal association. As far the ministry and I are concerned, the board represents the community.

TOXIC CONTAMINANTS

Ms. Munro: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment regarding toxic contaminants discovered on a Hamilton harbourfront site where it has been proposed a park be developed. Concentrations of lead as high as 23,000 parts per million were found in spots tested on the 69-acre site. High levels of cadmium were also discovered. The chemicals were found on the Lax brothers' property expropriated by Hamilton for \$900,000. I would like to know why the Ministry of the Environment was so lax and why this apparently illegal dumping was not detected years ago.

3 p.m.

Hon. Ms. Fish: As the member doubtless knows, ministry officials currently are working with the city and the city's consultants to come up with a proper abatement and removal plan for the materials. Part of the difficulty was that the records of the particular site were inadequate and incomplete and some of the contaminants were found only by testing and are not available through the documents.

Examples of the problems found here are part and parcel of the responses developed through the Ministry of the Environment to the Blueprint for Waste Management which, among other things, has led to the major \$100-million fund recently announced to deal with sites of this sort where there has been a concern about waste and refuse, whether it is simply municipal human waste or also involves industrial waste.

The concern here, as in other cases, is not only to have the opportunity through enforcement and inspection to review very carefully the formal records and documents on a site, but as well to be able to go in and undertake specific tests to assess the extent to which the documents reflect the accuracy of what is actually onsite.

Ms. Munro: I would remind the minister that the land was expropriated by the city exactly one year ago. It would be a great loss to Hamilton if the harbourfront park project was killed because of the toxic contaminants found in the Lax brothers' property soil.

We believe the mess should be cleaned up. I would like the minister's assurance that her ministry will provide all the assistance it can to the city of Hamilton and the Hamilton-Wentworth police who are investigating the matter.

Would the minister also report back on ministry plans to clean up the site?

Hon. Ms. Fish: I am pleased to give the member complete assurance of the ministry's interest in seeing this site is cleaned up, of our close working with the city and of our very firm intention to ensure that this site, as well as others, is cleaned up, prepared and properly used for the purposes for which the city expropriated it, which is a safe environment for appropriate park purposes.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question of the Minister of Labour regarding Valenite-Modco Ltd. I am sure the minister is well briefed on this issue. Does the minister understand the history of the problem of 29 orders over 10 years to this company and that because of the neglect of his ministry and of that company a 28-year-old man, Larry Girard, suffers from hard metals disease?

Has the ministry made a decision on whether it is going to charge Valenite-Modco?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I am not aware that a decision has yet been made on that matter.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Does the minister not understand that if charges are not laid against companies like this one, there is absolutely no deterrent at all? In fact, it is of financial benefit to the company not to follow the legislation because it knows there are going to be no financial consequences.

Does the minister not understand as well how strongly my community feels that the ministry is equally responsible for allowing this to go on? The community also regrets very much the way the minister's party handled this issue during the provincial election. The minister set up a public meeting, which he cancelled because he did not want any press and because of further controls that were being imposed by Pat Kinsella and others within the Conservative Party. They did not want this to become a public issue—

Mr. Speaker: I believe the member has come to the question.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Does the minister not understand that before that party leaves power a week tomorrow, at the very least it should accept part responsibility and take the honourable action, which is to lay charges against this company?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I presume you want me to respond only to the substance and not to the vitriolic nonsense that we heard? Is that true? Just respond to the substance of the question and ignore the other nonsense there?

Mr. Speaker: I would be glad if you could pick out the question.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Good; because the trouble is most of it is always mixed with nonsense from that member.

Let me say that I have no problem in agreeing that fines should not be looked upon as a licence to do things, and if the fines are inadequate then that has to be addressed.

Any decision with respect to charging, as I said, is a decision that has not yet been reached.

FREE TRADE

Mr. O'Neil: My question is to the Minister of Industry and Trade. With all the discussion and written information that is being put forth on the matter of free trade between the United States and Canada, particularly those views being expressed by the Conservative government in Ottawa, can the minister tell us where the Ontario government stands on this very important matter, which could have substantial effects on Ontario's economy?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Two weeks ago I attended a conference of all my provincial counterparts as well as the federal ministers in the economic area dealing with the very issue of free trade. I think the newspaper accounts of the comments I made have been relatively accurate.

Ontario's position is one of attempting in every way we can to assure access to export markets, primarily in the United States. But we have been extremely reluctant to support the concept of free trade as it is known to some spokesmen, which ultimately means a complete and unfettered opening up of the borders with respect to both the export and the import of products.

We are quite prepared to work co-operatively with the federal government to study the issue and to make absolutely certain that if we move towards some concept of freer trade or more open relations in the economic area with the United States, it does not create a burden and/or loss of jobs for Ontario.

Our position has been very clear. We feel there are sectors of our economy that can be badly hurt, as the honourable member indicated in the course of the question he has raised. We want to protect those industries. We want to make absolutely certain that if a free trade arrangement is pursued by the federal government, Ontario's interests are going to be protected in all circumstances.

In direct response to the member's question, we are very cautious about the issue. We want to

move very slowly and be absolutely certain of our position before we agree to anything.

Mr. O'Neil: The minister may want to be very cautious and move very slowly, but it would appear the Conservative government in Ottawa wants to progress or to speed up this thing.

The minister may have had discussions with them. Does he have a commitment from them that they will not proceed with this until they have had full input from the minister himself and full approval from the Ontario government?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I wish I were in a position to take my views and superimpose them on the federal government in Ottawa. It is much like those days when there was another political regime in Ottawa. I recall some days of uneasiness and perhaps the difficulty a certain party had in getting its input through to those people in Ottawa.

Mr. Kerrio: How does it feel?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: It feels wonderful, in answer to the honourable member's question.

I can only assure the member that we will put Ontario's interests first at all times.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT COMMISSION

Mr. Swart: My question is to the Premier, if I can have his attention. It is on the Niagara Escarpment plan. Given the statement that was in the speech from the throne, and recognizing the unseemly delays during the last several years by the government of which the Premier was a senior member, will he now give a commitment to this House and to the people of this province that the Niagara Escarpment plan will be proclaimed in the next week?

Will the commitment that I hope he will give include a reversal of the two most objectionable features in that plan: first, the permitting of excessive aggregate extraction on the escarpment, even in the protection area of the escarpment; and second, the absence of any requirement for development permits, which may be issued by the municipalities to conform with the Niagara Escarpment plan, thus allowing them to subvert the whole plan if they so wish?

3:10 p.m.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I thought there were about three questions there.

Will I give a commitment to proclaim? I will give a commitment to proceed as quickly as possible and, I hope, to proclaim. That was in the throne speech, so it is not difficult.

If one had sat 12 years ago and looked at the amount of work ahead for the Niagara Escarp-

ment Commission, one would never have believed it would take so long to perform the task. I am sure the member, as a person from the area, recognizes that it has been an extremely sensitive and delicate task. Very often totally opposing forces had to be reconciled in some way or another.

Rather than answer any questions about the content of the plan, the member will have to await the final public distribution, which we would like to have the opportunity to do, to show how much work we have done.

Mr. Swart: I recognize the sensitive area of the plan. I also recognize the lack of courage on the part of the government to deal with it.

Does the Premier not realize that it is 12 years since the Niagara Escarpment plan was passed and six years since the first draft plan was tabled? It is two years since hearing officers on the Niagara Escarpment Commission made their final reports on the plan and it is now nine months since cabinet had the recommendations of the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and the final recommendations from the public. How can we conclude that this is anything other than deliberate stalling or gross incompetence by the government?

Does the minister not also recognize that any new-

Mr. Speaker: Order. I believe there were a number of supplementaries included in that supplementary.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Few governments in North America-indeed I cannot think of another one-have had the courage to tackle the protection of such a significant environmental asset as Ontario has done. We have worked on it with a diligence and courage that at times cost us seats. Let us not kid ourselves.

As a matter of fact, the member is probably one of the beneficiaries of that. If he goes back to why he won, he will find the very fact that we were willing to look at the Niagara Escarpment and to protect it at all caused him to win. Yet he has the hypocrisy to stand up here and claim we do not have courage.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Minister of Education. Section 29 of the Constitution says that nothing in the Charter of Rights abrogates or derogates from any rights or privileges guaranteed by or under the Constitution of Canada in respect of separate schools.

On Friday I asked the minister the extent of that guarantee. I believe his response was that there was a division of opinion on the extent of that guarantee. When we are faced with considering legislation on this matter, I believe the key question will be whether the extension of separate school funding falls under the Charter of Rights. In order to answer that question—

Mr. Speaker: That was a very good question.

Mr. Sterling: Yes, it was a good question. I am coming to the conclusion of my question. In order to answer that question, we must determine whether the extension falls under section 29. Will the minister consider referring this question immediately to the Supreme Court of Canada so that we will know clearly whether the extension of separate school funding falls within the Charter of Rights?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: As has been indicated earlier, the overwhelming balance of opinion offered by the Attorney General's office on the question before the bill was considered was that it was constitutional and, therefore, we have been proceeding without the steps that have been suggested by the honourable member.

Mr. Sterling: Since the minister is going along with the drafting of the legislation, I assume the advice received is that the extension to grades 11 and 12 falls within the guarantee under section 29 of the Constitution. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I believe what I said on Friday last and on other occasions was that it was our opinion the policy to extend the funding through the additional years was constitutional.

Mr. Warner: Since the legal advice is that it is constitutionally correct, what is today's lame excuse for not introducing the bill?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No lame excuses have been offered; the importance of consulting the public has been emphasized. If the honourable member is concerned about consulting the public, I invite him to turn predictably to his left and behind him and ask his Education critic why he is determined to cut off public consultation and debate.

FLOODING

Mr. Haggerty: I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Natural Resources concerning the high levels of water on Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair and, in particular, Lake Erie. The water level is without doubt at its highest in a number of years, say, in the past 10 years. It has caused considerable damage in soil

erosion along the shoreline and has also caused severe difficulties in land drainage in the Lake Erie basin.

Can the minister indicate to the House, as many others have indicated, whether one of the culprits for the high water levels in the Great Lake systems is control by Ontario Hydro, the New York State Power Authority and the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority?

Hon. Mr. Harris: I am not sure I heard—who are all the people who have control?

Mr. Speaker: Would the member clarify it for the minister?

Mr. Haggerty: It has been stated by many residents and concerned citizens in the Erie riding and in the Niagara Peninsula that one of the causes of high levels of water in the Great Lakes basin is that Ontario Hydro, the New York State Power Authority and the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority are controlling the water at their gates on the Niagara River.

Hon. Mr. Harris: I think I addressed part of that question last week when we talked about it, when I believe it was brought up by the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) or the member for Essex North (Mr. Hayes), or both. I am aware there are some people who believe Ontario Hydro and/or the New York state utilities commissions have a significant influence on the high water levels.

At that time I indicated to the House it was my understanding from briefings I have had on the matter that is a very insignificant possibility, involving less than one tenth of an inch as a result of any control mechanisms for holdback for power considerations; however, we were looking at those. I also indicated at the time I would try to get more information on whether it is substantially more or less than that.

I am also aware representation has been made to the International Joint Commission. We certainly support ascertaining the extent to which control of the lock system and everything else plays a factor. However, I have to tell the member that the information I have is that it is far more related to weather patterns and the amount of rainfall we have had over the past couple of years.

Yes, the water levels are high and we are looking at many remedial measures that can be taken to help the situation, but I do not think the member will find that different controls by the utilities are going to affect significantly water levels on Lake Erie.

Mr. Haggerty: A recent study has been done by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

on the fluctuating levels of the Welland River. There is every indication the power authorities do have some control of the area that is causing fluctuations to the water level in that basin.

It has been a long time—I believe it was in the early 1950s—since the government appointed a select committee to deal with high levels of water in the Great Lakes basin. Will the ministry or the government of the day now initiate a further inquiry or appoint a select committee to deal with the issues, because we have seen changes in the past in navigational needs?

Mr. Speaker: That is a very good question. 3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Harris: I will be delighted to take it up with my colleagues to see whether they concur, and I will perhaps discuss it with members of both opposition parties. Perhaps we could have a select committee sitting in July, August or September that could work on it. I am not 100 per cent convinced that all three sides will agree at this time that this is the mechanism, but I think the honourable member has made his point, and I have concurred from my ministry's point of view—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Hold it in Europe or someplace. We could be there for the floods.

Hon. Mr. Harris: We can hold it in Europe if the member likes.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We will be there when the floods take place.

Hon. Mr. Harris: Sorry, Mr. Speaker; I got sidetracked.

There is merit in reviewing that. As a result of a question raised last week, I have asked my officials to ascertain what other information is there and what other information needs to be gleaned on the basis of some of the statements that have been made in the last little while.

I am not sure whether it was four or five years ago that the water was too low.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I believe the question was whether you would set up a select committee.

Hon. Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, he gave me a few other options, and I am going to pursue them all.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

Mr. Foulds: I have a question for the Premier on government advertising. Can the Premier explain and justify the fact that the Media Measurement Services list of top national advertisers shows that in 1984 Ontario's advertising increased by 18.1 per cent over 1983, the crown

corporations' advertising budgets rose by an astronomical 38.9 per cent and the lotteries corporations' advertising budgets increased by a whopping 27.8 per cent?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I cannot answer the question in detail. I will get the honourable member the answers.

Mr. Foulds: While the Premier is looking for those answers, can he explain why government advertising invariably increases in the year leading up to an election? How does he justify the fact that the increase of \$4.9 million in 1984 was more than the total advertising budget spent by this government as recently as 1976?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I cannot think of anything I could say that would change the member's mind on that matter.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Nixon: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. The minister may recall that in his address on June 4, His Honour referred specifically to the government's intention to do additional highway construction on Highway 400, Highway 416, Highway 401 and Highway 407, and in the minister's statement today he referred specifically to Highway 401, Highway 8, Highway 69 and Highway 35-115.

Has he not heard from the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies), as well as myself, about the need for consideration of work on Highway 403? How could he possibly fail to include that in this fairly large list of otherwise important work?

Hon. Mr. McCague: I would like to take some advice from the member for Brantford, but his point was that I slipped. However, the honourable member will know there is considerable work going on on Highway 403, and I think he is quite satisfied with what is happening.

Mr. Nixon: The work has been very satisfactory, in that the work has not been broken up or the bridges have not been falling in; however, the minister must be aware that until Highway 403 is completed from Brantford east to Ancaster, that troubled city will continue to be bypassed by industry. Will he give careful consideration in the next few days to allocating appropriate funds for building Highway 403 east from Brantford?

Hon. Mr. McCague: I think the question was whether I would give careful consideration, and the answer is yes.

MEDICAL LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. The minister is aware that

the employees at Canadian Medical Laboratories in Hamilton and Simcoe have, in effect, been without a contract or the increases due them since July 1982. The Inflation Restraint Board issued an order for a nine per cent increase from July 1982 to June 1983, but that increase has never been paid and the workers have suffered as a result.

Can the minister tell us what is being done about that? Is he prepared to intervene with his colleague the Attorney General (Mr. Pope), who seems to have some responsibility inasmuch as the company intervened some seven months ago to ask for a judicial review of the board's right to issue that order and to this day has never filed its statement of defence?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I will take the question as notice and respond.

Mr. Mackenzie: In the response, can the minister tell us whether there are other options such as a court order? Do we have to sit tight while this obvious flouting of the law by the owners is taking place? Is it possible to take a look at removing the licence from Canadian Medical Laboratories as an option in this case?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I will take it as notice.

PETITIONS

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Swart: I have a number of petitions.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas any action to extend funding to separate secondary schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas people in a democratic society have a right to be consulted prior to the implementation of policies which change long-standing relationships; and

"Whereas there is an understood convention in democratic societies with respect to the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters should be debated in the Legislative Assembly with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to debate the issue of extension of public funding to separate secondary schools prior to implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for people to appear and to be heard."

This is signed by 231 persons from the Allanburg United Church, Eastdale Secondary School, the Niagara South Special Services Committee, Thorold Secondary School, Welland High and Vocational School and Westbrook Secondary School in Welland.

Mr. O'Neil: I have a similar petition, with the same wording, submitted to me by Mr. Evan Bogart, a trustee of the Hastings County Board of Education, requesting the Ontario Legislature to delay the implementation of the proposed separate secondary school funding until appropriate, constitutionally acceptable legislation is in place.

Mr. Eakins: I also have a petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to delay implementation of the proposed separate secondary school funding until appropriate, constitutionally acceptable legislation is in place."

It is signed by a number of my constituents.

Mr. Mancini: I have received petitions and have had them presented to me by Mr. Scott Hunt and Shirley Telegadas, who are active in the Essex county area with the teachers' federation. They have asked me to table these petitions in the Legislature.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas any action to extend public funding to Roman Catholic separate schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas it is uncertain whether extension would contravene the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"Whereas in a democratic society there is a recognized convention with respect to the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters are debated in the Legislative Assembly, with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard before an appropriate committee of the Legislature;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government:

"1. to seek a constitutional referral prior to any implementation to determine whether extension would conflict with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"2. to debate fully the issue of extension prior to any implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for the people to appear and be heard."

I have a number of sheets signed by several hundred constituents in the Essex South area and by many citizens in the county of Essex.

3:30 p.m.

Mr. D. W. Smith: I have a petition that is exactly the same as the last, given to me by Mr. B. Hendrickson of the Lambton Central Collegiate and Vocational Institute, and I would like to present it as well. There are 61 persons who have signed the petition.

Mr. Haves: I also have a petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the terms of reference of the commission for the extension of public funding to Roman Catholic schools be broadened to include counterproposals and suggestions from concerned citizens in order to remove bias for their deliberations;

"That the extension of public funding be delayed to allow time for the commission to publish their finding, for the government to prepare a white paper, for the people to read it and for adequate debate;

"That the white paper be submitted to the courts for judgement on the constitutionality and its effects on the rights of other minorities, including the right of the majority not to be unduly affected in their simple right to an education."

These are all from my constituency, Essex North, and there is a very large number of them.

Mr. Haggerty: I have a similar petition. It is signed by 114 people from Port Colborne High School, Ridgeway and Crystal Beach High School and Fort Erie Secondary School.

Mr. Keyes: I likewise have five petitions presented to me by Miss Jane Derby on behalf of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation in my area. They have basically the same requests, to petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to seek the constitutional referral prior to any implementation to determine whether extension would conflict with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights.

Second, they petition the Legislature to debate fully the issue of extension prior to any

implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided to people to appear and be heard.

It is signed by 56 people from Frontenac Secondary School, 53 people from La Salle Secondary School, seven teachers on behalf of Loyalist Collegiate and Vocational Institute, five members of the board of education of Frontenac county and 31 staff of Kingston Collegiate and Vocational Institute.

Mr. Haggerty: I also have a petition for completion of the Catholic separate school system in Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, support full funding for the completion of the Catholic separate school system with its implementation in September 1985."

It is signed by approximately 200 people in St. Elizabeth's parish in Thunder Bay.

MOTION

HOUSE SITTINGS

Mr. Grossman moved that the House not sit in the chamber on Wednesday, June 12, 1985.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION RECIPROCAL ACCESS ACT

Hon. Mr. Pope moved, seconded by Hon. Ms. Fish, first reading of Bill 3, An Act respecting Actions arising from Transboundary Pollution between Ontario and Reciprocating Jurisdictions.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING CONTROL ACT

Mr. Foulds moved, seconded by Ms. Gigantes, first reading of Bill 4, An Act respecting Advertising by Governmental Organizations.

Motion agreed to.

ELECTION FINANCES REFORM AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Foulds moved, seconded by Ms. Gigantes, first reading of Bill 5, An Act to amend the Election Finances Reform Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Foulds: These two bills will severely curtail government advertising. The first bill, the Government Advertising Control Act, 1985, would prevent any Ontario government organi-

zation from placing advertising on radio, television, newspapers or billboards which would either directly or indirectly promote the political parties to which members of the executive council or the cabinet belong.

The bill would also prevent the use by a government organization of a logo, slogan, motto or name that is likely to be identified with that of a political party. Photographs or voice recordings of a cabinet minister would be banned on government advertising.

This bill is designed to prevent any Ontario government from using taxpayers' money to further its own political objectives in the years leading up to an election.

3:40 p.m.

The second bill, the Election Finances Reform Act, 1985, would prohibit advertising by government organizations during provincial election campaigns. Exemptions are granted for emergency purposes approved by the leaders of the opposition parties and for the administration of the election itself.

These two bills are an attempt to prevent the government from using taxpayers' money for propaganda purposes.

NON-UNIONIZED WORKERS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Newman, first reading of Bill 6, An Act respecting the Rights of Non-Unionized Workers.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: The purpose of the bill is to provide a low cost mechanism whereby a nonunionized worker may obtain a review by the Ontario Labour Relations Board where the worker is discharged or otherwise disciplined for cause and the contract of employment is silent on matters of discipline. At the present time, a nonunionized worker who is dismissed or otherwise disciplined for cause may have no right of action against his employer notwithstanding the fact that the discipline is, having regard to all the circumstances, unduly harsh.

The bill provides a two-stage process for reviewing complaints involving harsh discipline. Initially, a labour relations officer would be appointed to effect a settlement which would be reduced to writing and which would have to be complied with according to its terms. Then, if no settlement is reached or where settlement is not likely, the Ontario Labour Relations Board would inquire into the matter. The board, if satisfied that the complaint is justified, will have

the power to make an order substituting such penalty as is just and reasonable in the circumstances.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Partington: It is with a good deal of pride and pleasure that I rise to take an early part in the throne speech debate. I am glad of the chance to introduce myself to the House and to introduce new members to the attributes and concerns of Brock riding. Veteran members will need no such introduction to Brock riding which has been represented for so many years by the former Deputy Premier and Attorney General, Bob Welch.

During his distinguished 22 years in office, Bob held at one time or another virtually every important cabinet position. Bob Welch is the hallmark of diligence, organization, common sense and intelligence. Most of all, Bob's success as a politician and as a person was based on being open and accessible to all elements of the community and on his humane, compassionate and caring approach to all people, no matter their success in life and no matter their political affiliation. I will do my utmost to continue Bob's tradition of service to the people of Brock and to advance the interests of Brock, of Niagara and of Ontario.

The riding of Brock is named after General Isaac Brock, Canada's hero of the War of 1812, who died while leading his troops to victory over the American forces at the Battle of Queenston Heights. The riding is rich in history and in natural charms. Its accessible position in the Great Lakes explains its prominence in early history and, I believe, its promising future.

Brock riding today may be regarded as representative of most of the constituent elements of Ontario, combining agricultural areas, cities and suburbs, heavy and light industry, union and non-union labour, tourist and service industries, waterfronts and water courses, the educational institutions of Brock University and Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology and leading public and private secondary schools.

I invite any members who have not yet sampled the delights of my riding to visit scenic,

historic Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Niagara River Parkway. Visit the village of Queenston; the old town of Port Dalhousie; the Welland Canal; our blossom, folk arts and grape and wine festivals; the beautiful harbours; the Henley rowing regatta; the Shaw Festival; and our many historic and natural attractions.

A total of 75 per cent of the population of Brock riding lives in St. Catharines, where the auto industry is the major employer, overshadowing numerous other industrial and commercial concerns. My riding is an excellent place to live and work, but its constituents, like all others, have their hopes and fears. They recognize, as do the people of Ontario, that much of the progress of this province can be attributed to the careful stewardship, good management and firm leadership of the party of Drew, Robarts, Davis and our current Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller).

No apologies need be made for the policies and laws that have ensured Ontario's pre-eminence in Canada and have so frequently been copied in other provinces. The people of Brock will continue to look to this place for leadership and good management in dealing with their concerns, and I am pleased to say that the speech from the throne contains programs of great importance to my area.

In the 1960s and 1970s this government's large-scale environmental programs were geared toward the establishment and upgrading of basic water and sewage services. As these goals have been accomplished, the government's efforts to reduce contaminated emissions and enhance the protection of drinking water have increased. Today, 94 per cent of our urban residents are served by communal water and sewage plants. When one compares Ontario to our sister province of Quebec, where only six per cent of the urban population is so served, one can only give credit for the foresight and determination shown by successive governments in Ontario.

Environmental protection is like motherhood. I do not know anyone who is against it; I do, however, know some who pretend they invented it. The quality of our environment, and particularly the quality of our water, both in the Niagara River and in the Great Lakes, is a matter of foremost concern to me and to my riding. I can assure members that no issue will receive higher priority from me. The questions of whether the water is safe to swim in, whether the fish are safe to eat and, indeed, whether the water in our glasses is safe to drink should all become questions of the past. I believe this will be achieved.

[Applause]

Mr. Partington: I thank the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley).

Emotion and passion have played an important role in forcing the issue to public attention. Now science and diligence must be applied to locate and monitor polluters and pollutants. Stopping pollution should transcend party politics; stopping pollution should transcend economic considerations; and stopping pollution should transcend provincial, state and international boundaries. Polluters under the jurisdiction of the Ontario government must be identified and halted. Polluters not under our jurisdiction must be stopped by persuasion, example, agreement, legal action and friendly, and if necessary unfriendly, coercion by other governments. The bill introduced today by the Attorney General (Mr. Pope) is a step in the right direction. 3:50 p.m.

My constituents are pleased the throne speech commits this government to do just that.

Proposed environmental programs benefit our citizens daily. They make Ontario more attractive to visitors. Brock riding and its neighbouring communities see a considerable number of tourists each year. My constituents well appreciate the value of the tourism industry to the community and thus applaud the incentives announced in the throne speech. I hope other communities, as well as those in Brock riding, will reap the benefits of these new programs.

I mentioned earlier that the automotive industry is the major employer in St. Catharines. It is, in fact, the largest manufacturing industry in Canada. The health of that industry has a dramatic impact on the employment levels throughout Niagara and the province. I am pleased the throne speech has reiterated this government's commitment to this crucial area. The automotive parts investment fund started a year ago, the enterprise technology fund and the insistence on Canadian content or quotas on Japanese imports are essential contributions to the stability of this industry.

Agriculture is another important industry in Brock. Agriculture has flourished in Brock riding since before Confederation, as we have been truly blessed with good weather, good soil, good water supply and good location with respect to trade and transportation. Land use has evolved and intensified over the years and today orchards, vineyards and greenhouses are thriving. They have all benefited our economy.

Under this government, the province has helped to develop the greenhouse industry by promoting such things as greater energy efficiency, the potential use of waste heat from generating plants and the evaluation of new products, such as Ontario greenhouse-grown Kiwi fruit.

This government has helped to improve our orchards through a variety of assistance programs for apple growers, and more recently for the breeding of new processing cherry-stone peach varieties.

Our grape and wine industry has also flour-ished over the last 20 years with a tremendous increase in both quality and variety. Today, that industry faces severe pressures from foreign competition which are due largely to unfavourable exchange rates and to subsidies which give foreign wines a distinct advantage. In the short term, this government is helping producers through purchases of concentrated wines and juices and the wine sale recently announced. To deal with the long term, a joint government-producer industry task force is looking at grape and wine industry problems.

The throne speech announcements of a farm operating credit assistance program and the new crop development fund will be good news for my constituents.

The particular topics I have discussed today are only a few of the concerns of my multifaceted riding and of the people of the Niagara region. I look forward to working with my colleagues here and my colleagues opposite, some of whom represent other parts of the Niagara region, to advance the interests of those people.

I trust that members opposite will come to their senses shortly. It should not be necessary, but it apparently is, to remind members that the people of Ontario elected more members of my party than of any other on May 2. It is ludicrous to suggest the democratic will of the people is served by this unholy alliance which has been born of overweening eagerness for power, and born in such distrust that it had to be committed to paper.

On May 2, no one voted for any member of the opposition in the belief that he or she would do only as he or she was told by the leader of the third party, and very few people voted for the third party.

If the Social Credit Party out west became Socred, what are we to make of this contrived marriage of the socialists and the opposition? Have we seen the birth of the Sogrit party?

Some years ago, Hollywood inflicted upon us an incredibly bad movie under the title of The Incredible Two-Headed Man. It seems we are now threatened with an equally bad sequel, The Incredible Two-Headed Government. Neither I nor the people of Brock believe genetic engineering has so advanced that such an operation could be successful. I therefore urge the members opposite to join in supporting the positive steps outlined in the throne speech so the business of the province can proceed.

Mr. Callahan: I now know how the Blue Jays feel in the eighth inning as the fans trickle out.

Mr. Bradley: This is a full house.

Mr. Callahan: Is that right? I spent long hours preparing my speech and for a while there I thought I was not going to have an opportunity to give it.

As members know, I come from Brampton. Everyone has heard of Brampton. It is a beautiful city, a combination of Bramalea and the old town of Brampton. Some of the things the House was not told in the past is that it is really made up of a number of communities of which we are all equally proud: Bramalea, Brampton, Toronto Gore, Churchville, Huttonville, Madoc, Peel Village, Heart Lake, Snelgrove and Northwood Park. I hope I have not forgotten any. If I have, I will be in trouble.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt your first speech, but I wonder if you could stand a little closer to the microphone. It is hard to pick up. Thank you very much.

Mr. Callahan: I am sorry.

As members will recall, the city of Brampton was formed through regional government in 1974. It has grown rapidly over the years, so much so that it is now 173,000 strong. It grew from the small town of Brampton, with a population of about 35,000 when I arrived there, to the present extraordinary city. The last time I was on city council I was told we are moving towards a population of some 250,000 people.

Having listened to the Treasurer (Miss Stephenson) this afternoon and her amazing forecasts regarding the economic climate we are living in, I had to reflect on certain things that took place in Brampton because of its growth. For instance, we have an excellent hospital with excellent staff who work very hard. Because of the rather unique funding formula the government had in play, what it calls global funding, with a growth factor of two per cent for every city throughout Ontario, my city, which is growing faster than any city in Ontario and probably in Canada, is suffering gravely. When the hospital gets a 2.8 per cent increase, adds the two per cent to it and then settles with its nurses for five or six

per cent, anyone who operates a simple household will know it is operating in the red.

This has happened consistently over the years. The net result has been people sleeping in the halls; there were 47 in December. Operations are being cancelled, and not only elective surgery, but necessary surgery. Opportunities for people to get into the hospital are being made very difficult. After hearing we are in such a great financial boom period, I wonder why that particular situation continues.

4 p.m.

The city of Brampton is made up of people who are newly arrived there. Many of them do not take their medical services in Brampton; they take them outside Brampton. There will come a day when the people of Brampton in totality will take their services within the city and we will have reached a catastrophic situation.

Apart from those problems, there are others, all of which stem from the question of growth. While growth is beautiful, it is very important that the essential services necessary for growth are made available to this municipality and to other similar municipalities.

I would like to invite members to the city of Brampton. We are very proud of the things we have out there. We almost had the dome, but we did not get it. We do have a very excellent Carabram ceremony, which I suppose is somewhat akin to Caravan in Toronto. It will commence on July 4 and run through to July 7. Of course, I would be remiss if I did not invite everyone from the Legislature who is here and perhaps those who are not here to come out and celebrate that ceremony with the city of Brampton. Members can come out and sample the sights, tastes and sounds of the various ethnic communities that now make up our fine city.

The city itself at one time was considered to be a suburb or a bedroom community. I would suggest that if members come out to Brampton now, they will find we have a major industrial park that I would think is second to none in Ontario. As a result, we now have large numbers of people who are employed directly within the city.

As well, because of our growth and the number of people who work outside of Brampton and commute to Toronto, our GO Transit service is not adequate for the large and ever-increasing population. These are things which should be rectified to look after the ever-growing size of the city and effectively to deal with and help my constituents in the city of Brampton.

Recognizing the lateness of the hour and that the numbers on the opposite side of the House seem to be dwindling, I think that is really all I have to say in my maiden speech.

Mrs. Grier: Mr. Speaker, let me begin by congratulating you on the honourable position to which you have been elected by this House. It is a position which embodies many of the important traditions of parliamentary democracy. I have to say that after only two or three days in this place my congratulations are perhaps coupled with sympathy, but I do wish you well in what I am sure will be turbulent days ahead.

It is with great pride that I take my place in this Legislature. I spoke here once as a member of a model parliament at the University of Toronto more years ago than I care to admit. At that time I never dreamed I would one day take my place here as a member of this assembly. I have represented my constituents at the municipal level and I am very honoured by their support and the confidence they have shown in sending me here.

With some slight interruption I follow another NDP member who for 15 years represented the riding of Lakeshore in this House, Patrick Daniel Lawlor. I know he is remembered with affection on both sides of this House and is certainly remembered with affection by his constituents. In the course of the election campaign, I had very many people tell me they had been helped by Pat Lawlor and I think that in no small measure helped to send me here.

When Patrick Lawlor made his first speech in this House, he opened it with a quotation in Latin. Thereafter, he was referred to in Lakeshore as the bilingual member for Lakeshore. He said, "Behold, the dreamer cometh."

He saw the fulfilment of some of those dreams, but many of my constituents still hold the same dreams for improvements in their quality of life and in the form of government to which they are subjected in this province. I am here, I hope, to succeed in fulfilling some more of Pat Lawlor's dreams.

Lakeshore represents a cross-section of the urban areas in Ontario. Our residents come from many ethnic backgrounds. We have the wealthy and the disadvantaged, large homes and modest dwellings, modern apartment towers and older buildings of moderately priced housing.

The residents of my riding are eminently reasonable people. I have always found as a municipal representative that if I laid before them the issues and the problems and asked them to participate with me in a consultative process that

would arrive at a solution to those problems, we were able to resolve most of our own dilemmas. They have very reasonable expectations of their government. They see government as there to serve them, to listen to them, to consult them, to protect them and to lead them.

We are a community that has always attempted to resolve our own problems and meet our own needs. I suspect the number of hours of volunteer labour with a wide variety of community organizations in Lakeshore is higher than in most other ridings. It is because of this very strong community spirit that the failure of the present government to respond to our express needs has resulted in a severe lack of confidence in its ability to do so in the future. Therefore, I have no hesitation in supporting the motion and the amendment of no confidence that are before this House.

I would like to share with the House a couple of examples of issues on which certainly I and my constituents have no confidence in the ability of the present government to act in their best interests. One of those issues is the whole question of services to the elderly.

My riding embodies a large number of senior citizens living in their own homes or in apartments, people who need a small amount of help to maintain their independence. They have come together in a number of self-help groups, they have formed organizations, they have incorporated boards, they have raised funds and they have put in countless hours of volunteer effort to create home support services, friendly visiting services and some homemaker services.

They had a project that enabled them to do renovations and small repairs for seniors who were no longer able to do those for themselves. What they needed was some secure, stable funding to enable those projects to continue and for a very modest sum to expand and to serve a far larger number of people than they are able to do as currently funded.

They have turned to government to provide those funds, and essentially all they have received from this government is promises. They listened hopefully to a 1982 throne speech that promised care for the frail elderly. We heard in this throne speech of a promise of a far-reaching, community-based care system. We have heard it before and we are still waiting.

We now hear we are going to have a ministry for the elderly. Far better that this government commit the funds that would go into building a new ministry for the elderly to the programs that are already in place and beef up the administrative mechanisms that are there. I do not think the voluntary groups in this province could stand another reorganization of government ministries.

How many times have we attempted to get some answers from the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Community and Social Services only to be told, "We are reorganizing; we will have the answer in a few months"? We do not need a new ministry; we need some firm commitment and some firm funding to the services that have been asked for lo these many years.

My riding is blessed with several miles of Lake Ontario shoreline and is bounded on the east and on the west by the Mimico Creek and the Etobicoke Creek. Therefore, my constituents are particularly conscious of the need for better environmental protection. Here again we have no confidence in the determination of the present government to act to provide that protection.

We have before us a throne speech that is so lacking in initiatives and imaginative proposals that it is to proclaim three pieces of legislation, one of which, the spills bill, was passed six years ago by this House and is still not in force. The throne speech boasts that we have in place in Ontario the most extensive and rigorous laws of all the industrial jurisdictions in North America. We may have, but the enforcement of those laws is less than rigorous and the legislation has been consistently undermined by a lack of political will in the application of those laws.

4:10 p.m.

My constituents and I are therefore sceptical of the promises that have been put before this House. Our scepticism is only reinforced by the announcements that have been made since the throne speech about programs to do something about acid rain or to persuade Inco to adhere to control orders that it had already agreed to some months ago.

I would remind the members of this House that the first control order on emissions from Inco was issued in 1970. It called for 750 tons per day. Inco is now having emissions of 1,950 tons per day, and we are supposed to be grateful it has agreed to reduce that by 50 per cent in 1985. That first order was supposed to have been implemented by 1978. We have to ask ourselves how much less a problem acid rain would be had that original order been adhered to.

We heard from the minister last week about Operation Shield, a liming and restocking of acidified recreational lakes. A year ago the Ministry of the Environment's own fact sheet contained these words, "When the amounts of material costs, limited access and other manage-

rial and environmental details are considered, it is believed that the addition of lime to protect the entire sensitive area in Ontario is neither practical, realistic nor desirable." That fact sheet announced a pilot project which is to be evaluated at the end of 1986, so we may be forgiven if we are suspicious that what we are hearing today is the dying gasp of a dying government attempting to save itself.

There have been too many studies and too many delays. One issue that brought all that to a head for the constituents of Lakeshore riding was the question of the closure in 1979 of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, an issue about which members of this House on whichever side they end up sitting are going to be hearing from me in the days ahead. That hospital was closed in 1979 with no consultation with our community, no consultation with the staff and, least of all, no consultation with the patients and families of those involved in the residential services there.

The outpatient services have been maintained but in a state of suspense as to knowing where their future location might be. We received no action to fulfil the promise of equivalent services in the community as part of the deinstitutionalization of these services. The funding that was supposed to be transferred to community services did not happen.

The city of Etobicoke and the residents of my riding formulated a plan over a year ago for the future use of those 46 acres of beautiful prime land on the shore of Lake Ontario. We received no response from the Ministry of Government Services as the property owner about what it intended to do with the land. On May 3 I phoned the ministry in my new capacity and asked what was happening with respect to those hospital grounds. As one might guess, there is another study. No issue better crystallized for my constituents their lack of confidence in the present government.

The throne speech is an amazing document to receive from a Conservative government, but we have no confidence that even if the measures included in that speech were implemented by this government, they would be done properly. We have the suspicion they would be done piecemeal, too slowly and too little.

There are statements in the throne speech that reinforce those suspicions, statements such as, "Social programs cannot substitute for economic policies that pursue sustainable competitive growth." What does that mean? I suspect it means that if I had the opportunity to ask this government in the months ahead what had

happened to funding for my program of home support services, I would be told it could not be afforded right now because it might jeopardize our triple-A rating somewhere.

Just as the cousins of this government in Ottawa are making the old age pensioners suffer to reduce the deficit, we might well find some of those substatements in the throne speech gave the present government an excuse for not implementing those promises, should it be, perish the thought, in a position to do so.

The throne speech to me represents the heights or depths of political cynicism. I do not think the people of my riding are impressed. I have spent many years as an alderman persuading the residents of the lakeshore that they could fight city hall, how they could fight city hall and how they could win at fighting city hall. I have no confidence that with this throne speech they will be able to fight for the things they seek to achieve.

The Premier spoke last week of principles he was not prepared to bend. The only principle that is discernible is the principle of perpetual power of the Progressive Conservatives. For 42 years, being a Conservative in this province has meant never having to say you were sorry. Enough is enough. It is time to call a halt. It is time to let the sunshine in. It is time to make some meaningful changes that put the people of this province first.

Mr. Shymko: I am waiting for the reaction of the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) because I recall that four years ago, when I made my maiden speech following the great victory on March 19, 1981, the member for Oshawa, prior to our side participating in the debate on the speech from the throne, looked at us and said, "As I watched the pile of manure...." I believe that was his expression.

I am glad to see the member has tempered his behaviour and is not making any comments today. I understand that circumstances have changed from four years ago and that may well be the reason the member for Oshawa is behaving in a gentlemenly way. I certainly believe he will do so in the future.

It is ironic that my first speech in this 33rd Parliament is again part of the debate on the speech from the throne. From a streak of curiosity or nostalgia, I took a copy of my old speech of four years ago, dusted the cover of Hansard and looked at some of the comments I made then and wondered whether I would be saying the same things today.

Some statements made then would perhaps be cynical, sarcastic or ironic today. I will not share

them with the members. However, some of the comments I made are quite applicable, and I would like to share them with the members.

I said in my opening remarks four years ago that all of us as legislators "realize we have common goals and common aspirations, on whichever side of the chamber we may sit." I said there was a "commonality of purpose" that we all share "to improve the quality of life of our citizens and to lighten the burden of that brief passage of time we call life."

Those words were perhaps a little philosophical, but I think they make a lot of sense today because we may be going through a period of uncertainty, a period of transition, a period perhaps described as organized chaos in the next few weeks.

It is important to remember and to believe—and I want to believe—that the speech from the throne presented last week was neither a last-minute cynical ploy to hold on to power, as some may perceive it to have been, nor was it what someone described as a deathbed repentance. I believe the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) used that expression.

I believe it was not an empty exercise in political expediency to score some cheap credit. I believe, as all members believe, it was a sincere admission that we got the message on May 2. There is absolutely nothing wrong in admitting that. That is what democracy is all about.

4:20 p.m.

In political terms, we find ourselves in a very unusual circumstance now. Anyone who tries to claim victory or monopolize any gains from the present situation will get burnt politically in the long run. I refer to all three parties. It is something I share philosophically, and I am convinced the real winners are the nine million people of our great province.

Perhaps what we see today is a reality that may be incomprehensible. I think it was a Prime Minister of Canada who spoke about the mystery of the unfolding of the universe. It may take some while to realize why we on the government side find ourselves in the predicament in which we find ourselves now. Nevertheless, we are the government.

I would have hoped that we would have continued to serve as the government for at least two years. I still cherish that hope. It may be hope against all hopelessness. Hoping against all hopelessness is a very positive virtue. So many of us share it, I remind the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), who smiles as I say this.

If we had a free vote today, divorced from partisan constraints, our proposals, which have been outlined in the speech from the throne, would have the resounding support of the vast majority of all three parties, if not everyone in this Legislature, as has been admitted on a number of occasions by both the leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition and the leader of the third party.

Unfortunately, we do not operate under an American-style congressional system. Some may wish we did; we do not. Our British parliamentary system imposes on us a balance of compromise, a balance of mutual confidence among all parties, that was so well illustrated under the minority governments both in 1975 and 1977. Perhaps my constituents have various degrees of understanding of the intricacy of what British parliamentary tradition is all about. I will not comment on the points of view of what has and has not been breached.

The list of proposals is impressive in addressing urgent and pressing needs. Unfortunately for government members—and I say this quite openly, as would all of my colleagues—they should have been made a few months earlier, during the last session of the Legislature. Perhaps we would have seen different results on May 2. However, I want to stress that they represent the consensus of not only our present cabinet but also our caucus, and go deep within the framework of the moderate political centre that has always characterized our party in the past and I am confident will continue to do so in the future.

No doubt we have our party loyalties. This is something I referred to in the conclusion of my speech in 1981, and I would like to refer to it today. I think these words still make a lot of sense. I said four years ago, and I was staring at the member for Oshawa in particular as I was saying this:

"As I look around this chamber, I do sense a marvellous and sacred link. No doubt we all have our party loyalties and our partisan limitations, but we are all bound by the same loyalties to our constituents, and that is reflected by the results of elections. Government is based on trust. The province of Ontario and its eight and a half million people"—this was four years ago; it is nine million now—"represent that collective trust, and we should be reminded of this whatever our partisan feelings may be."

In 1981, when I spoke those words, that collective trust had given us a majority government. Today, the people have entrusted us with a

minority government and the responsibility to make it work.

Failing the holding of an election this fall, I believe the proposals in the speech from the throne will be implemented, whether my party and I serve the people of Ontario as the government or in the opposition. When it comes to promises, I cannot speak for those who have formed what some people describe as the unholy alliance. I cannot speak about promises or whether that alliance will survive or how long it will survive. However, if we Tories did not live up to our 1981 campaign slogan of keeping the promise, I think we had better do it now.

As we proceed to discuss and implement the very program that is being debated and has been presented in the speech from the throne, members will see that promise will be kept, certainly by myself and I am sure by all my colleagues.

That is the way it should be: learning a message, the mandate of the people. The voice of the people is a divine voice, as a Latin saying goes. I do not know the exact wording. I believe the member for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier) said one of her colleagues, a former member for Lakeshore, quoted in Latin, but I do not know what quotation it was. He may have quoted "Vox populi, vox dei," the voice of the people is a divine voice. That is a concept many of the members opposite may have had difficulty grasping in the past, in particular when we formed a majority government. Now they believe that "vox populi" expression because circumstances may be different.

We often have been accused mockingly of providing government by polls. Every so often one listens to these accusations. Many members opposite have reacted as though there was something wrong with providing legislation that has broadly based public support. The ultimate poll obviously is the poll such as that recently taken on May 2, but there is absolutely nothing wrong in polling the opinions of the population of this great province.

When a party is so privileged as to be invited by the voters to form a government, as we were invited to form a government by having received the majority of votes, I believe its members can no longer represent their own partisan interests. We cannot any longer represent our partisan interests.

We have been asked to form a government and we have formed a government. Therefore, we represent all the people of this province, and we must ensure that our actions and our policies, or what is termed "our promise," reflect this. Many of the things that are said in the speech from the throne, as I will refer to later on, have been said before.

Mr. Haggerty: In your first speech in 1981.

Mr. Shymko: Yes, as my 1981 speech referred to. The provision of effective government requires highly developed skills, which I am sure many members in this great Legislative Assembly possess. It requires developed skills in seeking consensus and reaching compromise. It requires a great understanding of the concept of fairness and balance.

4:30 p.m.

The record of this party's achievement down through the years shows it possesses such an understanding. We had the co-operation of the third party years before. I refer again to 1975 and 1977, when the skill of the government and the co-operation and understanding of those opposite made a minority government work without official agreements and the other phenomena we see today.

My experiences in life, in my riding and in government, brief though the latter may be, have led me to become involved in an area often referred to as social justice. I would like to comment about some of the policies in the throne speech as they relate to this area of serious concern.

Social justice is essentially the concepts of fairness and balance applied to the rules that govern society. In a perfect world, government intervention would never be needed to ensure fairness and balance. However, we do not live in a perfect world or in a perfect society. Sometimes circumstances—and I stress the word "circumstances"—are such that people who do not want to be are left behind and one group is able to dominate another. When in the course of events the situation does not correct itself and a balance is not achieved, then the government must intervene.

Rental accommodation is one area that requires government intervention to ensure a balance of interests is achieved. As long as the vacancy rate for rental accommodation remains low, government intervention will be needed to protect tenants. Our experience with controls has demonstrated that there are some problems with the legislation. I will not detail them now, but a revision of the present rent review policy is needed.

As I listened to the revisions proposed in the throne speech, I was pleased to hear that many of the reforms I recommended in my submission to the Thom commission were included. My

recommendations were made prior to any statements we have heard in the throne speech, and I want to stress that there are elements in this speech that many of us shared and publicly reiterated.

This issue has been of great concern to me because tenants make up 51 per cent of my riding of High Park-Swansea. These reforms will go a long way in protecting their interests.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: What about post-1976 buildings?

Mr. Shymko: I am sure we will listen to the wisdom of the member's comments and duly assess those comments.

Our government will introduce legislation that will limit the rate of rent increase allowed without a review to four per cent. We made this announcement. The exemption from rent review for apartments whose rent exceeds \$750 a month will be eliminated. In 1982 this government introduced legislation which limited, on an interim basis, the amount of financing costs that could be passed through to tenants in any given year to five per cent. This limitation will be made permanent.

All members will recall the Cadillac Fairview flip-flop and the con artists who wanted to make a fast buck in the speculative venture of these apartments with approximately 11,000 units. It was our quick intervention to protect tenants that led to this very policy and to this commitment of a five per cent financing-cost pass-through.

Provisions will be introduced that will allow tenants to obtain a rent adjustment in cases where the landlords' costs have decreased. They do not always increase; very often they decrease. Our government will establish a workable rent registry, a rent registry such as I proposed in my submission to the Thom commission. So we see another progressive change that some members on this side had been proposing publicly before commissions, and that should be no surprise to those members of the third party who have read the submissions some of their colleagues on this side made to that commission.

Our government will introduce changes to the rent review system to streamline the procedure and make it much more effective than it is today. I could go on and detail many more examples, but I will briefly say that we will be introducing—

Mr. McClellan: Demolition control.

Mr. Shymko: I remind the member for Bellwoods, who was a member of the negotiating team, that our government will introduce a five-year, \$400-million rental supply fund to be used to stimulate co-operative, nonprofit housing

to resolve the housing crisis, which the members of the third party so often support in their proposals. There are private-housing and convert-to-rent projects. The popular Ontario housing rehabilitation program will be reintroduced.

The government will also provide assistance to help tenants purchase their first homes. Most people still prefer home ownership to renting, I remind some members of the third party. This plan not only will help tenants of modest means to achieve this goal but will also aid in creating vacancies in the existing rental housing supply. In my riding there is a dilemma as to what will happen with the former Cadillac Fairview apartments. Here is a variety of interesting proposals that will resolve the present state of insecurity and mystery as to what the future holds for those tenants.

Another area of social justice concerns the elderly of our province. I would like to make some remarks as to how we address this problem.

Mr. Kerrio: Send a letter to Mulroney.

Mr. Shymko: I do not have to take the member's suggestion. I have already sent a letter to the Prime Minister indicating that as a former member of the House of Commons—there are a few of us here in the Legislature—and as one who shares the partisan loyalties of the same party, I have serious concerns, as does the Premier and many members, about the indexing question and the Minister of Finance's unfortunate inclusion of a policy that is detrimental to the elderly in this province.

Fairness demands that the contributions people have made to our society be recognized by our society. Nowhere is this more important than in the case of our senior citizens. It is because of their efforts that we now find ourselves living in circumstances, materially speaking, that are the envy of many countries in the world. It is because of their efforts that this government has recognized their contributions.

We have always tried to ensure that the gratitude of society to those who have gone before us is expressed in concrete terms. The actions this government now proposes to undertake will continue that tradition. A minister for the elderly will be appointed to consolidate and co-ordinate the many government programs that currently benefit our senior citizens—

Mr. Kerrio: Too late.

Mr. Shymko: It is not too late.
Mr. Kerrio: Too little, too late.

Mr. Shymko: It is never too late. I remind the honourable member that I am an eternal optimist, and that is why I am back.

This government will also develop a new and comprehensive plan for a far-reaching, community-based care system which I will not detail in my comments.

Mr. McClellan: Is that the one that was promised in 1977?

Mr. Shymko: I want to say, as I listen to the comments of the members opposite and to the constant interruptions from the member for Bellwoods, who seems to get a kick from interrupting his colleagues—

Mr. Mancini: We are just trying to help you.Mr. Breaugh: We are trying to clarify things.4:40 p.m.

Mr. Shymko: I can handle myself quite well, I would like to remind the member.

I do want to say that these are not promises; these are commitments. Here is one commitment I will refer to members. This government is very concerned about the impact of the federal budget on the income of our senior citizens. I repeat, this government is seriously concerned about the impact of the federal budget on the income of our senior citizens. We are not ashamed, and I am not ashamed in stating this. As far as I believe, I know this government will strongly urge the government of Canada to fully compensate pensioners who receive the guaranteed income supplement for inflation. Our government will increase the provincial tax grant program for seniors to help compensate, perhaps not fully, for inflation-related losses in income.

I cannot speak for the cabinet—I am a humble back-bencher—but I do sense a concern I know will be voiced and expressed if members opposite give us a little bit more time after June 18. I am sure they will see many more compassionate commitments from this side of the House.

Just as fairness demands that the contributions of our senior citizens be recognized, we should look at another segment of our society. I refer to our young people. That same fairness and sense of justice demands that our young people be given the chance to participate fully in our society.

At present, many of our young people are unable to find employment. It is a tragedy that a society possessing vast resources, such as this country and this province, does not provide these opportunities for full participation to our young people. Having passed through childhood and

adolescence, they are unable to complete that journey to full adulthood. Their inability to secure meaningful employment deprives them of a chance to begin to live their own lives and to make plans for their own futures.

This government has done a great deal, and we are proud of our record, to provide our young people with the skills and opportunities to gain employment. We have not resolved the problem. As I mentioned earlier, we are not perfect, but we have made genuine attempts to resolve this tragedy.

Our government established many programs to help young people who are out of school and out of work; programs that one does not find in other jurisdictions in Canada or in other jurisdictions in the world. I can go on and list all of them if the members opposite want to be reminded. Would they like me to list these?

Mr. Wiseman: Yes. Go ahead.

Mr. Shymko: Then let me list them to remind the members opposite. These programs include—

Mr. Epp: You can speak as long as you like. We adjourn at six.

Mr. Shymko: I know. They include the youth opportunity fund, the Ontario youth employment program, the Ontario youth employment counselling centre program, the Ontario Youth Trust—

Mr. Mancini: It is too late.

Mr. Shymko: It is not too late—the Ontario Youth Corps, the residential centres program, the Ontario youth program, the Ontario youth work opportunities, the year-round venture capital incentive program and the Ontario career action program. This is but the beginning. They are all great programs. They are programs that have been recognized, and we will have to remind not only members but also the constituents of this great province that we have responded to these needs.

We have also established many programs to help those young people enrolled in educational courses and to encourage those interested in acquiring new skills. Would honourable members like me to list some of these?

Mr. Barlow: Just a few of them.

Mr. Shymko: I will list some of them just to give members a random sampling of what we have done. They include co-operative education programs, summer Experience, Junior Rangers, Ontario summer replacement, Ontario student venture capital, Ontario Youth Tourism, part-time employment program, linkage I and linkage II, training in business and industry programs I, II and III, apprenticeship programs, Ontario

career action program, employer-sponsored training, Ontario training incentive program, Ontario management development program, university-small business consulting program, Ontario international marketing intern program, Ontario camp leadership centre, educational programs. Shall I continue?

Mr. Barlow: Just a couple more.

Mr. Shymko: Ontario young travellers program, school twinning program, welfare incentive programs, Challenge '85, the Canada-Ontario program, community industrial training program, technical upgrading program, Ontario skills fund.

Mr. Barlow: Who introduced those bills?

Mr. Shymko: Everyone knows it was the government of the day. The Progressive Conservative Party has introduced all these programs. There are also training trust funds and special training initiatives. Those are only a few of the responses to a need and an understanding of the issues of the day.

Mr. Mancini: Who introduced taxes on ice cream and candy and all those things children like? Who did all that? Which government did that? Who introduced ad valorem taxes on gasoline?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Let the member continue with his speech.

Mr. Shymko: Notice the limited nature of the comments after I list the vast program we have initiated, Mr. Speaker. That is the only response one hears from the opposite side; little minds.

Our commitment to seeking a solution for our young people is therefore unquestionable. The new measures introduced in the throne speech underscore the high priority we attach to this very important issue.

I would like to mention the creation of a new Ministry of Skills Development to co-ordinate all the noninstitutional skills development programs, the vocational training, the urban resource planning, etc., and the forecasting programs and services. This is another example of our commitment to help our young people.

One particular program, the co-operative education program, will receive increased funding so an additional 10,000 students can participate. We will be introducing new industry and school training programs and expanding high school programs in career guidance.

I would like to stress that this government, if given a chance, will be providing a \$100-million employment and training supplement in addition to the established programs for youth. The third

party wants to deprive our young people of these great initiatives and programs by making sure we are defeated on June 18. We must remind the young people of this province of the jeopardy into which they will be placed. When programs are already in place, it will create the type of chaos and instability in this House that will jeopardize these very important initiatives.

Another area is the supplement that would provide 75,000 extra training and upgrading spots in public institutions and industry and 30,000 extra work-experience opportunities for high school graduates, to which the third party will put a stop. It will put on the brakes on June 18 or 19 or whenever is the selected date of the great apocalypse in this province. It will be jeopardizing, for some unexplained reason, these excellent programs that are in place and ready to go.

The supplement would also provide a \$10-million training access fund to help people interested in improving their own skills to overcome such obstacles as child care, transportation and accommodation costs.

In addition, the government will establish a \$100-million quality education fund to cover research, capital improvements, equipment upgrading, and staff and academic development at Ontario's universities and colleges. I recall the member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande) constantly raising this issue with the former Minister of Colleges and Universities.

This government will expand the Ontario Welcome House program for new Ontarians as well as the multilingual services provided by government ministries. I do not know how many honourable members have had the opportunity to visit Welcome House. These services and the assistance being provided to newcomers to this province are deeply appreciated. I think it is a fine example of a service in this province that is rarely found in other jurisdictions.

4:40 p.m.

I would like to remind honourable members again that an omnibus bill will be brought forward to ensure that all Ontario statutes conform with the spirit of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code, a code we initiated and implemented many years ago as part of the progressive nature of this government. This government has always responded to the needs of the people of Ontario and will continue to respond to them, as this speech from the throne indicates.

This government will take steps to ensure the greater representation of women and of minori-

ties in our public institutions. Our government will establish a policy of contract preference to contractors who have undertaken and who undertake employment equity programs for women, visible minorities, native people and the disadvantaged. This criterion will apply to all contractors who provide over \$200,000 worth of goods and services per year to the government.

A compensation equity commission will be established to implement equal pay for work of equal value in the public service, crown corporations and agencies, and recipients of transfer payments, such as hospitals, municipalities, school boards and public institutions.

I thought we would receive some applause from the members opposite for these very important initiatives in equal pay for work of equal value, a principle we have always supported on this side of the House.

The commission will also be charged with advising the government on the appropriate application of equal pay for work of equal value in the private sector, but there is responsibility—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: When did that conversion take place?

Mr. Shymko: Some day when the third party forms a government, which is really hoping in terms of hopelessness, its members will see that it is easy to criticize and to demand speed of action when they sit on the opposite side, but that to make these important changes takes time, research and certainly a sense of responsibility because of the implications that such changes may have on the population and on society generally.

I want to stress that there is a commitment to look at the extension of equal pay for work of equal value in the private sector. The commission will rely on public discussions and debate, something which members of the opposition have always stressed, before any major changes of major impact will be made. That is precisely the purpose of this commission. Following such discussion and debate, we will look at the experience in other jurisdictions in implementing the policy in the public sector to form the ultimate and final recommendations.

While this government is committed to removing the salary inequities suffered by many women in the work place, this government recognizes that the introduction of chaos into Ontario's businesses and industries will benefit no one. A responsible approach must be taken. Such a comprehensive reform requires careful and detailed planning. The methods and standards of compensation equity must be deter-

mined on a business-by-business basis, and the effect of compensation equity on the private sector as a whole must first be examined.

For example, the third party may want to know that issues such as the effect on union contracts, the labour-management negotiation process, the competitiveness of individual firms and the impact on worker mobility are only a small sample of those important ones which must be discussed in public and debated before changes are made in the private sector.

Our government is not saying it is impossible to implement compensation equity in the private sector; we are simply saying a well-thought-out and comprehensive plan must be arrived at before we introduce this very fundamental and important change.

Mr. Laughren: Are 40 years enough?

Mr. Shymko: Certainly a year and a half to two years would be enough to make a minority government work as it has worked responsibly in the past. Certainly that would do.

Mr. Mancini: How long do you want?

Mr. Shymko: The member should talk to his negotiating team and perhaps negotiate with those who may want to make this minority government work without the unusual and rather surprising alliances which have been concocted most recently.

I know some members of the Liberal caucus are very uncomfortable; they are not comfortable with these arrangements. But that is something they, not we, will have to live with.

We will certainly be observing their effectiveness and how much time the members opposite, as the next government, will have to implement these policies, including, I hope, some of those we have reiterated in the speech from the throne. I do not know how much time will elapse before they will finally pull the plug on that unholy alliance and call an election. These are mysteries of the unfolding of the universe that we will certainly be observing from the opposite side. We do not know.

I watched the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), who smiles as we comment on the future possibilities, surprises and implications. Certainly, had we received the support that followed under similar circumstances in 1975 and 1977, we would have seen the implementation of all this—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Whenever the next election is held, you are down the tube.

Mr. Kerrio: You have to earn support.

Mr. Shymko: Ah yes; I know the member for Niagara Falls is one of those who is very uncomfortable with the present arrangements, not to mention the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell). I have watched him; he has been very quiet, but I expect to see him occasionally shift in his seat in a rather uncomfortable pose as developments unfold in the next few days and weeks.

Another very important area is that in December 1984 this government amended the Education Act to guarantee French-language education to French-speaking students. It also introduced an amendment that provided for the election of minority-language trustees to school boards by minority-language voters.

Je voudrais simplement indiquer, au sujet des programmes et de la politique qui vont servir notre communauté franco-ontarienne, qu'il n'y a pas de question qu'on a mis sur pied plusieurs programmes de la part de notre gouvernement et du Parti conservateur.

Il se peut que dans le sens officiel nous ne soyons pas une province bilingue. Mais dans le sens réel, la réalité que nous voyons à présent, nous avons un bilinguisme. Le fait que je peux communiquer en français dans cette Assemblée législative est l'indication d'une réalité. Le fait que la grande majorité des départements du gouvernement traduisent leurs documents en français est un exemple de la réalité qui existe.

On peut présenter plusieurs exemples. Dans le cadre des services de l'enseignement, la protection que nous donnons à n'importe quel citoyen de choisir l'enseignement en français ou en anglais, sans aucun critère de restriction, est à l'avance par comparaison avec la province du Québec. On a fait plus de progrès, il y a plus de justice dans le cadre d'égalité entre les deux langues officielles, ce qu'on ne pourrait jamais dire au sujet de la politique et de la réalité qui se trouvent dans la province du Québec. C'est une réalité.

Naturellement, nous ne nous sommes pas encore déclarés une province où le français et l'anglais sont des langues officielles dans le cadre constitutionnel. Mais je voudrais affirmer une chose: En réalité, de facto, nous sommes une province bilingue—pas de jure, dans le sens juridique.

5 p.m.

Je voudrais voir s'il y aura un changement le 18 ou le 19 juin, où le Parti libéral deviendra le gouvernement du jour. Je voudrais voir s'il aura l'audace et le courage, avec le soutien du Nouveau Parti démocratique, de déclarer la province de l'Ontario officiellement bilingue, comme il l'a promis jour après jour. Je voudrais voir cela: le grand mystère de l'univers, le futur, s'il aura l'audace et le courage de dire aux citoyens de l'Ontario: Oui, notre province sera bilingue.

Je lance un défi au Parti libéral et au Nouveau Parti démocratique à ce point-là. Parce qu'on a des députés francophones, dont la philosophie personnelle et le point de vue personnel soutiennent ce principe, espérons qu'avec le dialogue que nous avons avec les chefs de parti, nous aurons dans quelques jours une réunion des députés francophones de cette Assemblée. Nous avons, comme les députés le savent, une section ontarienne de l'Association internationale des parlementaires de langue française.

Je voudrais lancer un défi au Parti libéral et au Nouveau Parti démocratique: Demandez à cette section de discuter franchement et ouvertement cette question du bilinguisme officiel. Je voudrais voir le courage de mes chers collègues des caucus libéral et néo-démocrate de déclarer la province de l'Ontario officiellement bilingue.

Mr. McClellan: Tell us what you would do then.

Mr. Shymko: I am on record about what I as an individual member of the Legislature believe. I am on record in a statement I made on behalf of all the members of this Legislature at the International Conference of French-Speaking Parliamentarians, if the honourable member will read the record.

I would like to stress that not only have we introduced the amendment that provides for the election of minority-language trustees to school boards by minority-language voters, but in a continuation of our efforts to increase the right of the French-speaking citizens of this province the government will also be reintroducing the amendment. As well, we will extend the health services provided in the French language to ensure that the rights of francophone Ontarians continue to be recognized and expanded and that the office of francophone affairs will be made an integral part of the Ontario cabinet.

I would like Franco-Ontarians to listen to what we have said in the speech from the throne. Our government will be introducing all these measures, perhaps not in the way and not with the speed that some might have wished, but in a responsible way.

I certainly do want to see in the changes in the next few weeks of supposedly a new government the courage of that new government, supported by the third party, to declare Ontario officially bilingual. I would like to see this so that the members opposite do not play a con game with the electors but stand by their principles and their past declarations and go into an election with that particular issue resolved publicly. That is something we will be raising time and again in this House in the next months. I would like to see them have the courage to stand up for what they have said in the past and indeed declare Ontario bilingual.

Our government will introduce legislation to extend public funding to Roman Catholic secondary schools beyond the current grade 10 limitations. We all have an agreement on this issue. Someone may ask, "Why are you talking about it? We know we all support this issue."

A few days ago I was watching the House leader of the Liberal Party in one of those interviews with the media. I believe Robert Fisher was the moderator and I think it was a Canadian Broadcasting Corp. program. One of the interesting questions raised at that interview with the Liberal House leader was, "How can you possibly implement the Catholic school funding within four to five weeks of having formed a government some time in the beginning or middle of July when in the past and during the election you have constantly stressed the need for public debate, continued input and unlimited debate before the implementation of this important policy?"

They say we should proceed speedily within a few weeks to implement this and hypocritically demand that a bill be introduced, while denigrating and making a total circus out of our speech from the throne. They say it is meaningless and that whatever we have to say has no sense because, "You guys will not be around as of June 18; therefore, do not present us with a speech from the throne."

I sincerely find it hypocritical not to see any significance in the speech from the throne but to find significance in the presentation of the education bill.

Mr. McClellan: That is not parliamentary.

Mr. Shymko: I sincerely find that unusual and contradictory. I withdraw the word "hypocritical," but it is certainly contradictory.

If that is the concern, whatever agreement was struck by the two parties opposite should allow this government to function as a minority government, giving it time to implement, following substantive debate, the very important policy of Catholic school funding. They should not rush into it and they should not jeopardize the

supposed support they as legislators have had and hope to have in the future.

As we all agree, the separate school system has long been an integral part of publicly funded education in this province. As far as this caucus is concerned, whatever individual comments one may hear, its existence is guaranteed in the British North America Act. However, the extension of funding for the final grades of high school has become a controversial issue, as we all know.

Many groups and individuals want to express their views on the legislation and they must be given the opportunity to do so without arbitrary time constraints. The member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) and I are graduates of St. Michael's College School. We graduated from an institution that has been around since before Confederation. Our alma mater has decided to opt out, go private for some reason and not to accept public funding.

That is a very prominent secondary school. Time should be given for that institution to express the reasons it opted out. This is why I stress it cannot be done with arbitrary time constraints. I was very interested to learn that my old alma mater, St. Michael's College School, opted out.

Finally, I would like to turn my attention to the throne speech provisions that deal with child care, an area that has been of concern to me. I had the privilege to serve as chairman on the standing committee on social development with many members.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I thought there was a time limit on these speeches.

The Deputy Speaker: There is no time limit. That is not a proper point of order.

Mr. Shymko: The member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) has been around this House for many years. With his vast experience and knowledge of the intricacies of the legislative process, I would have thought he would have known there is no time constraint on this. However, it is interesting that even in this important debate a Liberal member wants to put on time constraints. They want time constraints when we start making sense, when what we say reflects the wisdom of our constituents. When we make sense they all want time constraints.

Perhaps they have learned from other sources. There have been time constraint limitations set by various sides of this House. I do appreciate, Mr. Speaker, that you reminded the honourable member I can continue to speak.

5:10 p.m.

The social development committee, acting as a nonpartisan, all-party committee, has produced some excellent reports. With the experience I have had in the past four years, if there was any moment I was proud to serve as a member of the Legislature, it was to be not only chairman but also a member of that committee, working in a nonpartisan, compassionate way, very often having problems with members of the cabinet who, once in a while, would disagree. It is elevating to see we can work as responsible legislators and lawmakers in a nonpartisan way.

The day care public hearings we held, the reports that were produced on battered women and the abuse of children, are classic examples of the excellent products of these deliberations by a nonpartisan committee. A child care system is a necessity in this province. In many families both parents work and other families are headed by single working mothers.

In my own riding the proportion of the population of single mothers is the same as that of senior citizens. It is an increasing demographic change that must be addressed. Many child care initiatives have been announced by this government, in addition to the previously mentioned training access fund. I would like to remind the members that in March 1985 the Ministry of Community and Social Services announced a \$30-million plan to create 7,500 subsidized child care spaces.

Looking at the throne speech, I was struck by its truly impressive agenda, and so were the press and the members opposite. The speech contains almost 100 initiatives. The fact that many of these initiatives were included in response to the results of the May 2 exercise makes it even more impressive. It is a responsible response to the voters of the province.

The Tories have been around for 40 years. My wife and I will have been married for 25 years next year. That is because there is a relationship of trust and confidence between two partners within the sacred matrimonial chains, if I may use that term. One simply does not say that after so many years there must be a change. I use a parallel that may not be applicable in the views of other members, but I would like to remind the third party that in those 42 years many fundamental and very important changes have been introduced, some no doubt at the urging of and as a result of the wisdom of members opposite. That is the purpose of the opposition; sometimes it enlightens government.

For those 42 years we had the confidence and trust of the voters of this province and, whatever members opposite may think, we were still re-elected on May 2 with the largest number of seats and we are forming the present government. If there is any other mandate in the future, whenever it may occur, I can assure the members opposite we will be judged on our record and not simply on our promises.

The speech from the throne stands as a testament to the concept of parliamentary democracy at its best. I am proud to say that under our system of government the party with most seats is invited to form the government and I would remind members of the third party that is the tradition.

Once it has assumed that office, the government can no longer be a partisan political party. We are not partisan, as this speech from the throne reflects. Far from it; we are a responsible government, responding to the needs of the population. We are the government of Ontario. We can no longer represent only our own members or the voters who cast their ballots for the Progressive Conservative Party.

All members were elected in their constituencies by party, but their function is to represent each and every one of their constituents. That is their responsibility. Whoever may come to the constituency office seeking help is not asked by members, "What was your preference?" or "How did you vote?" They serve everyone. In the same way, that is what a responsible government is all about. We serve all the people of Ontario, whatever their preference may have been on May 2.

This government represents all the people of this province. Its policies and actions are reflecting this. As we all know, the government must continuously seek consensus and strive for compromise, which we would have hoped was the system as precedents had been set in the past. It must constantly ensure that its policies are fair in establishing an appropriate balance between competing and conflicting interests. It must somehow always try to find a solution that all groups can live with. This is all the more true in a minority government situation even with 54 members.

In this instance, the voters have sent a message to all the parties—

Mr. Callahan: It is 52.

Mr. Shymko: Is it 52? I still hope for two more seats. So it is 52; it is not far from 54.

I admit we have heard a message, as I reiterated earlier in my introduction, and this

throne speech illustrates we have acted upon it. A speech which did not include these measures would have indicated we were undeserving of the responsibility of government, that we as a party could not and would not represent all the people of this province.

This throne speech proves we can and we will. It shows that when the voters of this province granted us the most seats—and I stress "the most seats"—thereby inviting us once again to form the government, they chose wisely. However, after the ballots were counted, events occurred which not many voters could have anticipated or still understand today. There are a lot of Liberals and New Democrats going out there not knowing what hit them.

Because these events have been described by the participants themselves as unique and historic, it is safe to say few voters had them in mind while casting their ballots. I doubt that on May 2 voters went to the polls thinking about an alliance to be formed by the opposition parties. I doubt they were thinking about a signed agreement—a legislative pact—and yet those events have taken place.

In a parliamentary democracy the party winning the most seats forms the government. This is true in a minority as well as in a majority situation. In most elections in Canada and in Ontario, no one party receives the majority of the popular vote. That is a fact. However, two opposition parties do not traditionally form an alliance. If they do, it is a coalition government. They share cabinet positions.

However, an alliance now claims a right to govern because it won and has enough votes in the House to force itself into government. Such an action is not traditionally justified by statements about the combined percentage of the popular vote. Traditionally, such justification takes place in democracies governed by the principle of proportional representation.

The last time I looked at Ontario it was still a parliamentary democracy. I honestly do not recall any legislation and debate to change the system. I do not even remember everyone deciding we were going to give proportional representation a try this year. No, as far as I know, this province is still governed by the traditions of parliamentary democracy.

According to these traditions, the party with the most seats forms the government. It is allowed to remain as long as it can and will reflect the interests of all the people of this province. When in the collective wisdom of the opposition parties it demonstrates by its actions that it no longer can or no longer will represent all the people of this province, then it is simply voted down in the House. That has always been the tradition. It is voted out.

5:20 p.m.

This government received the most seats, I remind the honourable members for the third, fourth or fifth time. Maybe there will be a Pavlovian reaction if I keep repeating it. In the few weeks since it took office, it has demonstrated in each of its actions an ability and a willingness to assume the responsibility of representing the people of Ontario. Yet the question that hangs in the air before us is, will it be given the chance?

Will it remain as a government until its actions justify its removal? Members opposite say no.

Mr. Foulds: Yes; until Tuesday.

Mr. Shymko: The mystery will unfold; the mystery surely will unfold.

Mr. Foulds: Did you ever hear of sins of omission?

Mr. Shymko: I want to thank the people of this province for once again extending to us an invitation to form the government. The throne speech illustrates that once again the Progressive Conservative Party is ready, willing and able to assume the responsibility of the government of Ontario, that we will represent all the people of this province.

We will continue to seek consensus, as we have in the past, and try to achieve a balance between all the points of view held by the citizens of Ontario. They have spoken and we have listened. Those who do not listen, do not at their own peril. The message delivered in the throne speech was the message of the people of Ontario, the message they have sent. For this reason, I urge my fellow members to vote acceptance of the throne speech.

Mr. Mackenzie: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I am so pleased to hear the honourable member who just finished speaking outline his total opposition to the deindexation of pensions for senior citizens that I want to send across a petition with one of the pages. I am sure he will not only sign it himself but also go round his colleagues—

The Deputy Speaker: That is not a proper point of order.

Mr. Curling: I am deeply honoured to have the opportunity today to address this House on behalf of the people of the riding of Scarborough North. This is a momentous time in our history, a time when the issues we debate in this Legisla-

ture will affect the lives of the people of Ontario for decades to come. In the weeks and months ahead, we will all be caught up in the urgency of events, in memos, briefs, studies and plans, in the ringing of telephones and in the heat of debate, and we are eager to begin.

Yet I want to use this opportunity to ask all the members of the House to reflect for a moment on why we are really here. For today, in this great chamber, I hear voices. I hear the voices of the hundreds of distinguished members who have sat in this Legislature since 1892. I hear the voices of those who left their indelible marks on Ontario: Oliver Mowat and Arthur Hardy, Adam Beck and Mitchell Hepburn, Harry Nixon, John Robarts and Margaret Campbell. I hear the voices of all those parliamentarians who sat in this House through the past century and filled the air with fierce debate.

I represent a riding that was held by one of the most respected parliamentarians who ever sat in this House, a man who held one of the strongest mandates and equally great respect from the people of the riding of Scarborough North, whom I now have the honour to represent. I speak of no other but the honourable Tom Wells. It was Tom Wells who called me long distance on May 3 to congratulate me and offer me his assistance in any way. It is my way of paying tribute to a great parliamentarian.

They all had one great purpose, one great responsibility: the protection of the democratic freedoms of citizens of Ontario. Those men and women are gone from here now, and we are their direct heirs. We are charged with the responsibility of governing, of protecting the right of each individual to dignity and respect. We have inherited the standard they set, a standard for democracy and civilization that has shone untarnished for more than 100 years.

Today all over the world there are countries where people cannot speak out, where oppressive regimes threaten lives and consciences, where men and women do not have rights or dignity or opportunity. In those countries, even as I speak, people are struggling and sacrificing for a simple opportunity: the invaluable opportunity of coming to this place, of becoming citizens of this jurisdiction, where fairness, justice and decency are fundamental rights.

Those rights are protected in this Legislature, and we are the keepers of this House. Others will come after us as others came before us. For now, we are the protectors of this long and honourable tradition of fairness, decency and opportunity, and we must serve it well.

Being elected to Queen's Park can be a very heady experience. Election day is over and suddenly we are in this wonderful building of red carpets and soaring ceilings. This great building, this House, belongs to all the people of Ontario, to every citizen regardless of his or her country of origin or religious beliefs. It is their House, and it should reflect not only one facet of our culture but also the magnificent cultural diversity and contribution of all the people of this province.

All the children and young people of Ontario must be able to come to Queen's Park and see hanging in its corridors reflections of their culture as well; those from Europe, China, Japan, the Middle East and the Caribbean. These Canadians have brought great cultural riches to this province. Just as the real Ontario is a mosiac of these contributions, so too must Queen's Park be.

It is not difficult to forget temporarily the problems that exist in all our ridings: the unemployed young people, the seniors living on the poverty line, the concerns about education and taxation and, lest we seem to forget, the environment. We will forget these problems at our peril, for we are here in this position of great privilege only because the people have chosen us to speak for them. We are, in the most honourable sense of the word, servants. We are in this chamber for one reason only: to serve the people. We are not here to build bureaucracies, appoint huge commissions and generate a mountain of meaningless paper. We are here to serve the people.

5:30 p.m.

We talk of budgets of thousands of dollars here and millions of dollars there. We must never forget for a single moment that those dollars have been entrusted to us by the people. It is their money, often earned at considerable sacrifice. They are trusting us to use it to improve their lives and the lives of their children, and we must not fail them.

We talk of education, of schools and funding and of studies and commissions. We in this Legislature will determine the shape of Ontario's schools, colleges and universities for years to come. The most important, the only important legacy parents can give their children is a sound education that will prepare them to lead happy and productive lives. If we deny them hope for the future we have denied them the future. The parents and educators of Ontario are trusting us to preserve and protect the educational system, to shape it to serve the needs of the children and that

trust is more than \$50 billion a year to carry out that task. We must not fail.

We talk of jobs, of unemployment statistics and of make-work projects. We are talking about people's lives, about the terrible pain and lack of respect that comes from unemployment. We are talking about the urgent necessity to create an environment where people can employ their talents to the full. We must not fail them.

We talk of our youth. If one is a politician, it is easy to say, "Oh yes, we must be concerned about our youth." We must do more than that. There is a whole generation of young people in this province who face uncertainty and unemployment. There is a whole generation of young people in this province who have trained for careers and watched those careers wiped out by new technology. There is a whole generation of young people in this province who have spent long years in school and earned a place in the unemployment line. There are four million young people in this province and they deserve the same opportunities we had. We must not fail them.

Finally, we talk of opening the political process to all the people of Ontario. My riding of Scarborough North boasts more than 200,000 citizens of this province. Scarborough North is a microcosm of the cultural diversity of Ontario, with more than 50 different languages spoken. There are rural and urban concerns. There is post-Second World War environmental abuse. I speak of the Malvern phenomenon, the radioactive soil.

The people of Scarborough North did not take part in one of the most massive shifts in electoral listing just because they wanted to send a message that could not be ignored. The 200,000 people in my constituency were not just sending a message; they were giving a mandate for change. The people of my riding said in the most dramatic terms possible they want jobs with a future and a future with jobs. The people of my riding said in no uncertain terms they want one class of health care. They said they want a government that will act to protect a clean environment. Those mandates cannot be wiped away.

In my riding there are thousands and thousands of ordinary men and women working hard to pay off their mortgages, to raise their families and to build a better life. Many of them were born in this country, and many have come to this country to enjoy the privilege of becoming citizens of Ontario. Those people cherish their citizenship with a fierce pride, for they understand better than many of us the privilege of living in this

great province. However, for too long they have been neglected by our political parties and excluded from the mainstream of public affairs. Their faces are the face of the real Ontario, the face of a province filled with energy, enthusiasm and ambition, the face of a province rich with resources and talent and the desire to excel and to serve.

Mr. Sterling: I have listened to the throne speech debate and would like to take this opportunity to express my position on a very important matter mentioned in the throne speech. I would like to put straight on the record exactly where I stand on this issue because I have not been given that opportunity. I have been questioned by various people in the media, but I have been able to respond only in pieces. Therefore, I think it behooves me, for my constituents and for other people in the Legislature, to express my opinion in relation to the question of separate school funding.

I have indicated that I will not vote for the extension of funding at this time. Rather than explain what I am against in this bill, I would like

to express what I am for.

First and most important, I believe a society should be tolerant and understanding of other members of that society. I believe the best time to teach that is in our formative years, in our childhood. I believe children should learn in their workaday world, which is at school, to live with people of different races, religions and economic circumstances. I do not believe they should be segregated on the basis of religion or economic station.

Second, I believe parents, not the state, have the primary responsibility for teaching their children moral and religious values.

Third, I believe in living by our legal, constitutional obligations of 1867 regarding the separate school system. I have been a member of the legal profession and unfortunately this question has never been clearly decided by our highest courts. There was the well-known Tiny township case in the 1920s which basically said the basic education system for separate schools was to the end of grade 8. I do not know whether that case still stands.

I suspect the extension of aid to grades 11, 12 and 13 goes beyond our legal, constitutional obligations. If that is not the case, why has the separate school system not attacked this government and tried to enforce that to which it believes it is legally entitled? I am not aware of any case other than one brought by a young man in Ottawa to try to deal with this matter. In other words,

although we have had our constitution since 1867, there has not been a serious attempt in recent years to try to extend the system.

5:40 p.m.

I would be the first in line to support the extension of aid to separate schools to the end of high school if that were our legal, constitutional obligation. Unfortunately, what I say about whether our Constitution obliges us to give that funding or not is not really of great relevance. Nor is it of great relevance what any member of this Legislature feels about our legal, constitutional obligation to fund separate schools. I am sure that decision will ultimately be made by the Supreme Court of Canada. That is why today in the Legislature I asked the Minister of Education (Mr. Grossman) to try to get that process under way, because I feel the sooner it is answered, the easier the other task of determining this very difficult issue will be.

I believe our present situation as members of this Legislature in deciding whether we are going to extend aid or public funding to separate schools is also committing us to something else. As was said in the editorial of the Globe and Mail this morning, when we vote for the extension of aid to separate schools we are committing ourselves to the funding of private and parochial schools as well. In fairness, I do not know how we can say no to the other schools.

In reality, my position is this: I believe we should decide both whether or not to extend funding to separate schools and whether or not to support private and parochial schools at the same time, so we will have all the facts in front of us. As members know, the Shapiro commission is reporting in November, and I would prefer that we have all the facts before us before we embark on what I consider to be a path that is irreversible.

Of less importance, but of some concern to me, is the economy of the expenditure of public funds in education. In a time of declining enrolment it seems to me imprudent to create new systems of education. Last, and most important, I believe that as far as possible within our constitutional limitations—and I am willing to live within them—every girl and boy in this province should be given the same chance to receive the best education possible. I do not believe this can be achieved through private and parochial school systems. I think, rather, that it should be based on a public school system.

Perhaps it is important to explain the position I took during the recent election and during the last year. I have stated publicly on the platform and on television that I would not support legislation

that would discriminate against students or teachers on the basis of religion. I came back to Queen's Park from the election after having learned what I think many people have tried to teach us. They believe we were perhaps not being open and having a full discussion on this. I made my decision with time close and with an indication to me from the separate school system that it would not accede to these kinds of conditions. It requires discriminatory religious provisions in this kind of funding, a provision with which I cannot agree.

If May 2 said anything to me, it was that the people voted in different ways on this particular issue, but generally against the party I represent. They were not very happy with any one of us in this Legislature who did not openly discuss this issue in detail; they were not happy with any of the leaders of the three political parties on this issue. Therefore, I think it is incumbent on members of this Legislature, in perhaps the most important decision dealing with our education system that we will certainly see through our legislative careers, to come out in the open and express our feelings and make certain our political survival, in whatever party we support, does not go above and beyond what we are going to decide on this issue.

Mr. Mancini: I am pleased to have the opportunity to say a few words in this time we have been given to reply to the speech from the throne that was presented to the people of Ontario a few days ago.

Before I do, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your elevation to a very prestigious job in this chamber. I want to congratulate you on being named Deputy Speaker of the House. After having sat with you on the standing committee on procedural affairs for some years, I know you will take your obligations very seriously and will deal with all members of the House in a very fair manner.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate one of my own colleagues, the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer), on having been elected by all members of this House to the most prestigious position of Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you and I have got to know the member for Perth very well over the years we have been here, as have some of my colleagues who have been here far longer than I have. He is a person of impeccable qualities and fairness, and he has already demonstrated, in the few short days during which he has been in the Speaker's chair,

that the decision made by the members of the House was a good decision.

I also want to thank the past Speaker, the member for Peterborough (Mr. Turner), for his work during the term he served as Speaker. I want to apologize to him if, on any occasion, I offered him more advice than he needed. I was only trying to be helpful at the time.

We have been given an opportunity to speak today and some of us are going to take longer than others. I am happy to say that I am not going to take as long as the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) who got into an oratorical flight about what his party stands for and what it had intended to do in the next 40 years. I wonder if he actually saw the results of May 2. I wonder if he actually read the previous throne speeches. I wonder if he was actually in his seat when his government passed laws during the previous four years. I wonder if he ran for the Conservative Party during the past election campaign.

We know what the Conservative Party stands for. We were told by the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) what the Conservative Party stands for. We will never forget his opinions on the minimum wage, on rent controls and on equal pay for work of equal value. He stated those positions clearly when he ran for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of this province. Even some of the members on the other side, although the ranks have been thinned considerably, even the half dozen who are left, know full well what their Premier stood for at the time.

An hon. member: The member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling) did not know.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Mancini: I was going to get to the member for Carleton-Grenville. I was just going to make one particular comment first. Now that his name has been mentioned, I want to say to the honourable member that we respect the views of every single member of this House.

It does concern me, however, that his comments were made the day after the cabinet had been chosen. I would have given his comments far greater leverage if they had been made a day or two before. I would have given the member's comments far greater leverage if they had been made a day or two before, or if they had been made the day after Premier Davis announced what he was going to do. Unfortunately the comments were made when they were, and although I believe that the member's qualities should have allowed him to sit in the cabinet of

this government, especially when one sees how thin the ranks are, and even though I personally believe the member has the ability and the qualities to sit in this dying cabinet and government, I would have given him much more respect if they had been said two or three days before.

Mr. Sterling: On a point of privilege. Mr. Speaker: The member for Essex South is making a number of aspersions.

On May 22, the Prescott Journal, which happens to be a paper in my riding, had an editorial called Taking a Stand, written by Steven Bonisteel. "Carleton-Grenville MLA Norm Sterling says he was almost relieved that he was not named to Premier Frank Miller's cabinet last week. Being on the outside, he said, leaves him free to take his own stand on the issue of extending funding for the province's Roman Catholic system. Although some may attribute Mr. Sterling's recent statements on the issue to sour grapes, his opposition to full funding for the separate school system is in line with comments made by him prior to and during the recent provincial elections."

Mr. Deputy Speaker: What is the point of privilege?

Mr. Sterling: "Contrary to an Ottawa Citizen story on Monday which claims Mr. Sterling did not reveal his position during the campaign—"

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I cannot see any point of privilege in this.

Mr. Sterling: He is obviously challenging my motives with regard to when I am taking a stand on an issue. If he wants to challenge me, I have to have an opportunity to respond.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I rule that he did not challenge your motives at all. That is not a proper point of privilege.

Before the honourable member carries on, may I remind the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) that he is not in his seat and he is making comments.

Mr. Mancini: I want to refer to a Globe and Mail article of June 5, 1985, a lengthy story about the government's throne speech and the headline reads, "Miller Praises Intervention in Speech Full of Reversals."

The opening paragraph states, "Real leaders do not look for compromise." This remark is attributed to the Premier and he made it on January 25, the night before he became the Ontario Tory leader. I want to know from the government members how they can go around

without embarrassment after the more than 90 reversals that were contained in this document.

Interjections.

Mr. Mancini: Did he consult the member about these reversals? Was he consulted?

We heard a lot from the member for High Park-Swansea about what the Conservative Party stood for and that they are against the reduction of pensions that has been called for by the Conservative government in Ottawa. He will not be able to pretend he is not a Conservative. A Conservative is a Conservative is a Conservative and the members are forever attached to the Conservative Party in Ottawa. They gave their support to the federal party during the campaign.

Premier Davis stood side by side with Mr. Mulroney, introduced him on many platforms, and the support given to that party now in government and that is attacking ordinary working people and women and wishes to reduce the standard of living for senior citizens is also part of the responsibility of the members opposite. They worked for them. They canvassed for them. They asked the people of Ontario to vote for them and they, as a Conservative Party, are lying with them whether they like it or not.

I heard about an unholy alliance, as some member across the floor stated it. I wonder a great deal why the Premier established a negotiating team and sent it to meet with the members of the New Democratic Party. Did he send them over to have tea and crumpets or did he send them over to form an alliance so this Legislature could work under the governing leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario?

Mr. Foulds: He wanted to make a deal.

Mr. Mancini: He wanted to make a deal. I understand much better now. It was all well and fine for the Progressive Conservatives to receive the support of the New Democratic Party, but it was an unholy alliance when the New Democratic Party decided that it was time for a change, decided that after 42 years it had had enough of Progressive Conservative government, enough of its broken promises, enough of its arrogance, enough of its Tory patronage appointments, of which I am told it has made 200 since May 8; that in itself speaks of their party.

I welcome the Minister of Education (Mr. Grossman) and I thank him for dropping in. Any party with any self-respect would have stopped the appointments after May 2. Any party with self-respect would have said: "We have not received the confidence of the people. Patronage appointments are always controversial. We will wait to see what transpires in the House. We will

wait to see whether we are allowed to govern before we continue with the number of appointments we deem necessary."

The Conservative Party went on its merry way. It acted as if it had a majority government. It will remember what happened to the last party that had a minority government and acted as if it had a majority government. It was defeated and thrown out of office. That is exactly what is going to happen to these people. There will be no delay. No number of crocodile tears can save them now. People have seen them for what they are. It is a government that has been in office too long. It is arrogant. They have only looked after their friends and, in some cases, their parents. I want to say to the Conservative Party of Ontario that it has displayed a new plateau of arrogance,

an unbelieveable plateau of arrogance. It displays a new peak of arrogance when it believes it has the only men and women capable of running Ontario.

They should look at the men and women who sit in the Liberal caucus, the senior members and the new members we have elected. We will put together a government that will out-perform anything they have had in the past 42 years. I congratulate my new colleagues for the tremendous campaign they ran.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. I draw the member's attention to the clock.

On motion by Mr. Mancini, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

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No. 5





Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 33rd Parliament

Tuesday, June 11, 1985 Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, June 11, 1985

The House met at 2 p.m. Prayers.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing a distinguished visitor in the Speaker's gallery, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, the Honourable Gerard Amerongen, QC. Please join me in welcoming the Speaker from Alberta.

MEMBERS' ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I know you would be disappointed if I did not bring to your attention and, through you, to the attention of the other members of the House that this is the 26th anniversary of the election of the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman), who is the dean, in terms of service, of the Liberal Party.

He is sort of the assistant dean of the House, but his service goes back to 1959. We in the Liberal Party wanted to bring this to your attention and we hope the other members will join us in expressing congratulations, best wishes and hopes for many years of continued service to this member.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I know the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) would want at the same time to recognize the member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil), who is one of the few people-I guess the only person now-who preceded the honourable member just referred to as a member of the assembly, in 1958 in a by-election.

I cannot resist noting as well that I am sure the member would have wanted to remind the assembly that last Sunday, June 9, was the 30th anniversary of the election to this assembly of Allan Grossman as the member of the Legislature for the St. Andrew riding. That would therefore complete, as of Sunday last, the first 30 years the Grossman family has represented St. Andrew.

DEATH OF LACHLAN MACTAVISH

Hon. Mr. Eves: On a more solemn note, I would like to take a moment to express the deep and great regret of the government on the passing of Lachlan (Duke) MacTavish, QC, senior

legislative counsel from 1947 to 1970 and legislative counsel for many years before that.

Mr. MacTavish, fondly known as Duke, a nickname he acquired from a university essay he wrote on the Doukhobors, was one of the most outstanding of all Canadian parliamentary draftsmen. Members of all parties of this assembly admired and esteemed his loyal and nonpartisan advice and his legislative drafting skills. From 1978 on, he served as counsel to the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments, where I, as chairman and a member, personally benefited from his vast knowledge and experience.

However, the members of this House were not the only beneficiaries of Duke MacTavish's great talents. He devoted himself to the Uniform Law Conference of Canada for 40 years, as a member, as president from 1953 to 1955 and then as first permanent executive secretary from 1973 to 1981. He greatly strengthened that organization and furthered the cause of uniform legislation. He was also a member of the first Canadian delegation to the Hague Conference on Private International Law in 1968.

Throughout his busy retirement, he found the time to draft and prepare bills for the Ontario Law Reform Commission as part of that body's many reports.

In private life, Mr. MacTavish was an avid and successful curler. He was a member of the Governor General's Curling Club. He was also appointed to international and Canadian curling associations and as a trustee of the Ross Carleton Grand National Competition.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the condolences of this House to Mr. MacTavish's family, his wife Elizabeth, his daughter Mrs. James Malpass, and his son Dr. John MacTavish.

Mr. Van Horne: On behalf of our party, I would like to pass on our condolences to the MacTavish family.

Very briefly, it has been my pleasure to sit on the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments for the last four years and on many occasions we had the pleasure of his counsel. He was particularly experienced and qualified in the area of delegated legislation, especially in the area of notice and comment. The press gallery found it difficult to attend the exciting sessions we had, but the committee members benefited from his technique and wealth of experience.

On behalf of my Liberal colleagues, we pass on condolences to the MacTavish family.

Mr. Martel: If I might, those of us who serve on the Board of Internal Economy had the pleasure of finding out what that particular committee was doing and under whose guidance. Although my friend the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) used to object occasionally to what those in the legal profession earned, we always found it was without too much difficulty that we would get those honorariums paid to Duke MacTavish up front. There was no problem, because he served the committee and this province well. We in the New Democratic Party join in offering our condolences to members of his family in this sad time.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ONTARIO MOTOR VEHICLE ARBITRATION PLAN

Hon. Mr. Runciman: Today, the automobile represents one of the largest financial investments made by most Ontario consumers, but it can occasionally develop into one of the largest consumer headaches when it does not work properly.

While auto manufacturers have in recent years shown a commendable willingness to stand behind the quality of their products by offering longer and more-comprehensive warranties, the lemon owner must sometimes feel like David in his efforts to get his car fixed at Goliath's garage, always worried that he is powerless to get satisfaction.

With this in mind, I feel the Ontario Motor Vehicle Arbitration Plan, which I introduced at a media conference just this morning, will prove itself to be a significant entry in this province's ledger of consumer protection initiatives.

When the Ontario Motor Vehicle Arbitration Plan, or OMVAP for short, becomes operational on January 1, 1986, it will establish an independent, high-quality and free province-wide mechanism to which consumers may resort when they are not satisfied with their vehicle in spite of their efforts to get it fixed.

OMVAP has the support of 20 automobile companies selling in Ontario and the plan will cover disputes arising from alleged manufacturing defects in new cars and light-duty trucks not used for commercial purposes. About 99 per cent

of the total number of vehicles sold in the province will be covered by the arbitration plan. 2:10 p.m.

Essentially, anything that relates to an alleged defect in original manufacture and that seriously affects the safety, roadworthiness or resale value of an automobile sold and registered in Ontario may be taken to arbitration by the vehicle's owner.

Arbitrators will have the power to order, as appropriate, vehicle repairs, replacement, buyback and monetary awards. Punitive damages, insurance claims, personal and property damage claims or other consequential losses resulting from alleged defects in a vehicle will continue to be handled through litigation. Arbitration will be used to accomplish what it does best: resolve disputes directly relating to the repair or replacement of a vehicle.

I want to emphasize that this is not a lemon-law program. We concluded that lemon laws, now offered in 35 states of the United States, give consumers little more than they already have: the right to take their grievances to the courts. Our attention, therefore, turned to arbitration, which is increasingly being used to settle disputes between consumers and the manufacturers and agents of a wide range of consumer goods.

The plan has the support of both the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers' Association and the Automobile Importers of Canada, both of which were instrumental in the design of the arbitration plan and whose members are providing one-time funding.

On behalf of Ontario consumers, I congratulate those two organizations and their individual members for their vital contribution to the arbitration plan. It represents a remarkable collective achievement on their part and sets an outstanding example for future government-industry co-operation that I am sure will be copied in many jurisdictions in Canada and the United States.

I also congratulate the community organizations that are joining the venture as members of OMVAP. This is a historic endeavour. As part of the OMVAP consortium, these organizations will play a valuable role in ensuring the program's effectiveness. We believe we will have in Ontario a sound, independent arbitration plan built on co-operation among government, industry and the community.

VISITOR

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, before the next minister begins his statement I wonder if you would allow me-

Mr. Speaker: Is this a point of order?

Mr. Martel: Yes, a point of privilege. I have a point of something: information—

Mr. Van Horne: A point of view.

Mr. Martel: A point of view. I would ask all members to join with me in welcoming to our Legislature the new member for the Klondike, Art Webster, who was part of that great New Democratic victory in the Yukon and who is touted to be the next Speaker of the Yukon Legislature. As of May 2 in Ontario, the Tories in the Yukon also realized the realities of March 13.

Mr. Speaker: I just received a note and I would also like to welcome Mr. Webster personally.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Mr. Bennett: The development and promotion of Ontario's tourism sector is of paramount importance to the economic wellbeing of the province. To that end, my ministry proposes to take some aggressive and forward-thinking steps.

My ministry is proposing to expand its marketing efforts in New York, New England and Quebec. New York City and the surrounding area provide great market potential. Marketing efforts will be directed to the region's large population with the express purpose of attracting its residents to Ontario.

In close proximity to, and with obvious spinoff effects from, the New York City area are the New England states. Preliminary tourism research, which indicates this area to be a potentially strong market for Ontario as a tourist destination, resulted in the establishment of a Boston tourism office in 1984 and the appointment of a representative. As well, funds from the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development were obtained for one year in 1984-85 to implement an advertising program.

I propose to extend the "Ontario, yours to discover!" program to the New York City area and to continue our New England campaign, initiated last year, for a three-year period. As well, we would increase the involvement with media in the New York City area and in New England through our successful Visit Ontario program, whereby travel media are brought by my ministry to Ontario to experience Ontario at first hand. Finally, I propose we continue the

development of Ontario tour programs from the New York City area and New England states.

I am encouraged by the fact that there is a strong and growing interest among residents of Quebec in making Ontario their tourist destination. At the same time, this market is affected by the US-Canadian exchange rate in a way that is beneficial to us in Ontario. Residents of Quebec seek relatively low-cost alternatives to traditional northeastern and southern US vacations.

Ontario is positioned as an affordable, exciting destination among Quebec travellers.

An increase in person-trips to Ontario is anticipated along with an attendant increase in provincial revenues. We propose a three-year program to build on that market.

To capitalize on the growth potential in this market, my ministry will develop and execute an aggressive marketing campaign focusing on Ontario as an affordable, exciting destination for both francophones and anglophones alike.

We will increase our involvement with the Quebec media, once again through our Visit Ontario program, and by extending awareness through advertising and the publication of articles on Ontario vacation opportunities.

We will direct our efforts to tour operators, wholesalers and other travel media and will develop additional Ontario tour programs that will be designed to appeal greatly to the people of Quebec.

Promotion is important, but equally important is the product.

I would like at this point to draw the members' attention to an agreement that was signed by the governments of Canada and Ontario in 1979, the eastern Ontario subsidiary agreement. The intent of this program is to encourage economic development and employment growth in designated areas of eastern Ontario.

To date, almost \$4 million has been allocated to tourism development. Among projects that have been assisted are:

Dow's Lake pavilion in Ottawa, where a \$100,000 grant levered a \$3-million investment in a year-round tourist complex. The project, which includes specialty restaurants and a marina, is creating more than 100 full-time jobs.

Highland Resort in Calabogie is being transformed into a first-class, all-season resort with the help of a \$100,000 grant from EOSA.

Wilderness Tours, located in Beachburg, received \$186,000 towards an approximately \$1.2-million cost of transforming its successful whitewater rafting operation into a multiseason,

multi-activity wilderness resort unique to Ontario.

Fairfield White House near Kingston received \$90,000 to complete the restoration of this important part of our Loyalist heritage.

The Thousand Islands area was given a \$40,000 grant to help advertise and promote its first annual Festival of the Islands.

EOSA grants were provided to help build an animal theme park, the Thousand Islands Wild Kingdom in Gananoque, to increase the inventory of tourist attractions in the region.

The \$4 million has assisted more than 60 projects and in turn has served to encourage additional private investment of approximately \$17 million. This has had a significant impact on the tourism economy of eastern Ontario. The agreement is currently scheduled to expire in September 1985.

My ministry believes additional opportunities exist for further tourism development in eastern Ontario, given its superb natural resources and unique historical importance.

Notwithstanding the recently signed Canada-Ontario subsidiary agreement for tourism development, which relates to the entire province but predominantly applies to large-scale projects, my ministry supports renewed negotiations with our federal colleagues with a view to extending the kind of assistance that has been available through the eastern Ontario subsidiary agreement.

To augment these and other existing initiatives, I propose that a tourism development board be established. This new board would address specific needs associated with tourism and would enable the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and the industry it represents (1) to manage and direct the means by which this government financially assists tourism establishments; (2) to ensure that its board members are persons with primary interest in tourism development; (3) to establish a higher profile for the industry.

This board will review and make recommendations on financial assistance that relate to my ministry's programs and will serve to focus on the significant investment this province makes in tourism.

My ministry is committed to the improvement of the tourism sector in this province and will continue vigorously to promote both the development of the tourism plant and Ontario as a tourist destination.

Mr. Rae: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I think there have been gnomes at work already in the government because on page 3 of my copy of

the minister's statement there is a large, black censor's pencil through a sentence. I wonder why the minister did not read it. It says, "Changes in the political climate in Quebec are evident." I thought it might be of interest to ask the minister why that sentence was taken out of the statement.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the honourable member could ask that in question period.

2:20 p.m.

MINISTRY OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Gillies: Later today I will be introducing a bill to establish the new Ministry of Skills Development. I would like to bring to the attention of the House the intentions of the government in establishing this new ministry.

In the 1950s our university system was expanded significantly to meet the needs of the particular time. The 1960s saw the creation of our community college system, which provided a major, new alternative—a second option—for our young people coming out of secondary schools. Today we face new challenges and the need to stress skills training as a viable and credible option, linked to the job market, for Ontarians, young and old alike, who seek the opportunity to train or retrain on the job. The formation of this ministry represents the evolution of a new alternative, a third option in Ontario.

This option is a new approach, but it is an evolutionary change rather than a revolutionary one. It is the continuation of an ongoing process that will now become a permanent and important part of Ontario's educational and training framework. It really began with recognition by government of the importance of and need to adapt to changes in the areas of training and skills development—changes that are occurring even more rapidly with new technological advances.

Workers in today's society are under intense pressure to master new technology, to make use of the new tools and techniques that radically alter the work place. It is essential for our people to develop the skills that will allow them to compete in a rapidly evolving high-tech world. The development of this third option through the Ministry of Skills Development will meet these kinds of changes and challenges.

Our government has demonstrated its commitment to training programs by increasing its financial support when needed. In the past three years alone we have seen an increase of more than 300 per cent–from \$12 million in 1981-82 to \$50 million in 1984-85–for job-related training for workers of all ages.

In 1984 the former Treasurer helped to rationalize the government's approach to training programs. In his May budget, youth employment training programs and work-place-centred programs were consolidated into two broad envelopes—Ontario Youth Opportunities and the Ontario skills fund. Ontario Youth Opportunities was allocated \$150 million per year for three years and the Ontario skills fund was allocated \$50 million a year for three years. The measures introduced in that budget further underlined the importance our government attaches to this essential aspect of public policy.

In addition to this commitment of \$200 million per year, the recent speech from the throne announced the allocation of an additional \$100 million for youth employment and training initiatives in 1985-86. The majority of this \$100 million will support additional training and work experience initiatives that will expand on existing programs. By so doing, we will build on the successful programs we have established to date with an overall emphasis on training and

upgrading.

Part of this \$100 million will be allocated to a co-operative education initiative aimed at more closely aligning the education system and the needs of industry. Funds will be used for the hiring of placement officers in schools and to provide for allowances to be paid during co-op work placements. The placement officers will also encourage greater participation by industry.

A portion of the \$100 million will be used to establish the training access fund, which will have two components. One will be the establishment of a training consultative service to industry. This service will work to demonstrate to managers, in small and medium-sized businesses in particular, that investment in training is as important to their competitive success as is investment in new technology and equipment.

It will also assist managers to develop and implement overall training strategies. In return, through the information the training consultative service will obtain from business and industry, we shall be able to ensure that our training programs are designed and implemented so as to best meet the needs of employers and employees.

The second component of the training access fund will be to provide direct financial assistance, based on individual need, to those who currently face barriers to participation in existing training programs. Frequently, participation in a training program results in additional expenses, such as those related to child care or transportation, which our existing social support services

were not designed to accommodate. This component of the training access fund will be used to cover those additional expenses that can be clearly identified.

As stated in the throne speech, further details of these initiatives will be outlined in the budget. Discussions on these details are currently under way with officials from the Ministry of Treasury, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Labour.

The Ministry of Skills Development has been created in response to identified labour market needs and to consolidate all noninstitutional skills development, vocational training, and human resource planning and forecasting under one roof. The ministry will work to create a continuum of training, counselling, work experience and retraining, leading to long-term employment and job mobility. It will also contribute to Ontario's economic growth by helping employers achieve their skills development goals. It is through the Ministry of Skills Development that the initiatives I have just outlined can be implemented with maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

The throne speech announced the government's intention to introduce in the budget an enterprise technology fund. A fundamental condition applied to the assistance provided for modernizing industry under this fund will be an assurance that workers participate through appropriate training and retraining activity. The new ministry will play an important role in establishing, assessing and monitoring training plans as an advance requirement for any assistance in upgrading technologies and equipment.

In addition, employment and training services for special needs groups will be consolidated within the new Ministry of Skills Development by transferring the handicapped employment service unit from the Ministry of Labour to the new ministry; however, services for those special-needs clients within the institutional settings of the colleges and universities will remain the responsibility of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

The Ministry of Skills Development will obtain training services from existing secondary schools, colleges, universities and private institutes rather than through new institutions. Of course, this will benefit our college system since the colleges will be a primary delivery agent for the increased training activity my ministry will generate.

Ontario's 22 colleges are internationally recognized as leaders in the field of vocationally oriented education and training. Our colleges are the cornerstone of skills development, providing the administrative support and the institutional components of work-place-centred programs. It is our intention that the ministry work in close harmony with Ontario's college system to best serve everyone involved.

It is important that the programs keep pace with labour market needs and that they are clearly understandable by everyone. We will endeavour to refine and clarify programs and to develop an approach that will be responsive to the needs of the people who will use them. This will also mean streamlining the budgetary and delivery mechanisms for institutional and on-the-job training programs in order to increase training effectiveness and efficiency.

Let me assure members that this process of review and rationalization does not mean fewer jobs, fewer funds or cutbacks; quite the opposite. Given the needs of the unemployed, women, inexperienced youth and laid-off older workers, additional resources, as announced in the speech from the throne, will be allocated to ensure that all Ontario workers are able to get and hold jobs.

What the creation of the ministry signals is that a third and important training option has been clearly established. It will provide continuity and permanence to our programs and will mean co-ordinated delivery and stable funding mechanisms. In the years to come this option will become as commonplace as the traditional routes to the work place through our community colleges and universities.

I want to emphasize that the responsibility for training workers lies not just with the government and the colleges. Industry and unions must have very important roles to play in the training process that the ministry will actively encourage and facilitate. From the identification of training needs to participation in program review, to the provision of on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs, both unions and the private sector can be instrumental in helping make Ontario's approach to training among the most advanced in the world. It is time now for companies and unions to become active partners in providing funds, expertise, facilities and work experience to improve the training process dramatically.

We believe the training and skills development option is a new and exciting direction, and I know many members of the Legislature see it that way as well. It is time to ensure that everyone in this province and in Canadian society begins to

see and appreciate the economic and social benefits of improved skills training and employment mobility.

We have to make access to training not just easier, we also have to reach a point in our society where people actually plan for training, upgrading of skills or retraining as a normal part of their working lives.

2:30 p.m.

This government has demonstrated its commitment to the area of training and skills development. It was to meet the challenge of change, of preparing the people of Ontario with the necessary skills, that the Ministry of Skills Development has been established.

EQUALITY RIGHTS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Pope: I will introduce later today the Equality Rights Statute Law Amendment Act. This bill proposes amendments to 58 Ontario statutes to bring them into greater conformity with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the equality provisions found in section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

This bill is the most extensive equality rights bill thus far unveiled in Canada. It demonstrates our continuing commitment to the principles of nondiscrimination and equality. It builds upon a rich Ontario tradition of respect for human rights, a tradition which has been expressed in a multitude of acts and amendments, including specific human rights legislation stretching back to the Racial Discrimination Act of 1944.

The tabling of this bill was preceded by our publication in January of this year of a 440-page analysis of section 15 of the charter. This document, which contains the results of several months of intense review and discussions by our lawyers, is now considered as the standard reference document in the field. Lawyers across the country have advised us that they consider it to be an exceptionally thorough and helpful document.

The number and difficulty of the issues dealt with in the discussion paper reveal the complexities found in section 15 of the charter. Although those complexities have not yet been addressed by the courts, we have decided to commence amending Ontario laws on the basis of a broad and generous interpretation of the charter. We want to legislate rather than litigate. This will minimize uncertainty respecting the validity of legislation and will avoid unnecessary legal expenditures for the public and the government.

One of the most important issues in section 15 involves the question of whether systemic or constructive discrimination is banned by the charter. I want to confirm the statement of my predecessor, the Honourable Robert Welch, QC, on April 10, 1985, that Ontario accepts that section 15 of the charter can be used to address constructive discrimination. This position will govern our approach to requests for further reviews of Ontario legislation and it will be the position taken by counsel for the Ontario government in all charter litigation.

This means that in Ontario no technical interpretative barriers will be placed in front of those who want to use the charter to address hidden or unintentional discrimination. For example, height and weight requirements, which do not on their face discriminate against women or minorities, often have a discriminatory impact. We accept that one of the purposes of the charter is to remove such hidden barriers to advancement in order that the principle of individual merit can reign supreme.

The bill I am introducing today is the result of a thorough analysis of more than 700 Ontario statutes. These have been reviewed in great detail with a view to finding all possible conflicts with the charter. Where conflicts have been found, we have been guided by cabinet's determination that Ontario's laws should reflect the spirit as well as the letter of the charter. We have not taken a narrow or technical approach.

None the less, there remain some difficult issues to be dealt with. The bill I am introducing today, extensive as it is, is only a first step. It does not reflect our final word on the impact of the charter on our legislation. We recognize that a number of groups have studied the charter intensively and will be bringing forward proposals for further amendments. I invite these groups to bring their concerns to our attention. Wherever possible, we would rather legislate to resolve the problem than to litigate against groups with which we share a common commitment to the charter.

The guiding principle behind our charter review process is the same as the principle which underlies our own very extensive Human Rights Code. Our objective is that every individual be judged on his or her own individual merit, rather than on the basis of stereotypical perceptions about the group to which he or she might belong.

The bill I am introducing today deals with possible conflicts with the charter on the basis of age, sex, religion, marital status, disability and citizenship. I will also be introducing today a

separate bill on mobility rights under the charter. Later this week I will introduce a further bill removing all discrimination from the laws respecting names and changes of names.

In addition, we have undertaken substantial studies of the laws affecting pensions and mandatory retirement. Our work on the impact of the charter on pensions is reflected in part in the speech from the throne. I hope to be able to announce further initiatives in the very near future.

In so far as discrimination on the basis of age is concerned, the bill repeals most age distinctions which are not based on age 18, the age of majority, or on ages 16 and 12 which, although below the age of majority, are ages at which it is widely recognized that certain rights should be given. No change is being made to the drinking age of 19.

We feel it is appropriate to retain age 18 as the age of majority, that this is an age at which a person no longer can be considered incapable solely on the basis of age, and an age that represents a point at which the risk of harm to young persons because of their age is minimal. While no age classification can be shown to be universally accurate, we believe the use of age 18 as the age of majority will be upheld by the courts.

Additionally, we are not amending statutes that establish age 16 as the driving age, the school leaving age, the age at which the child protection provisions of the Child Welfare Act end and the age at which persons may, with parental and judicial consent, marry.

Finally, some distinctions at age 12 are being retained. This is the age of criminal responsibility under the Young Offenders Act and represents a realistic point at which certain rights and responsibilities can be given to children.

Although we are retaining age classifications at 12, 16 and 18, each particular instance in which one of these classifications is used has been reviewed. We are maintaining only those usages that are reasonable and demonstrably justifiable under the charter.

In relation to protection from religious discrimination, no amendments are being proposed at this time in relation to our laws concerning Sunday closing and the establishment of holidays, other than the repeal of the Lord's Day (Ontario) Act. That act has no continuing purpose given the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada striking down the federal Lord's Day Act as inconsistent with the charter.

Since the validity of provincial Sunday closing and holiday laws under the Retail Business Holidays Act is now before that court in another legal proceeding, we have decided to defer consideration of other amendments in this area until we have an interpretation of the charter in this specific context.

We are making a number of amendments to give further effect to the right to affirm instead of to swear an oath. Although this right has been recognized in Ontario for some time, a number of older statutory provisions establishing prescribed forms of oaths appear to contradict it. These are being amended.

We are amending a significant number of statutes that may discriminate on the basis of marital status. Marital status is not a form of discrimination explicitly recognized in section 15 of the charter. However, it is recognized as a basis of discrimination in our Human Rights Code in relation to the provision of services and it may come to be recognized by our courts as a prohibited ground of discrimination under the charter. We have chosen to act now rather than engage in expensive and prolonged litigation on the issue.

We are changing statutory provisions referring to husbands and wives so that they refer to spouses. In relation to new and existing statutory references to spouses, we are also, in most cases, defining the word "spouse" to include people in common-law relationships. With respect to most of these amendments, a person will be considered to be a spouse if he or she is either married or is living in a conjugal relationship. This will be the general rule.

In some statutes, however, where an entitlement or obligation must be determined by an official without the benefit of a hearing, we are defining the word "spouse" to restrict its meaning to people who have been cohabiting in a conjugal relationship for at least one year.

I want to emphasize that our reason for taking this approach is based solely on evidentiary and administrative concerns. People form conjugal relationships without any formal event to act as proof of the existence of such relationships. It is not always clear, therefore, whether two people should be considered to be spouses. The requirement of a specific period of cohabitation will permit officials to make decisions on this in individual cases in an administratively feasible way.

Where the existence of a conjugal relationship can be determined by a court or other tribunal, no specific period of cohabitation will be required. In a few cases statutes will require the proof of a conjugal relationship to be in the form of a declaration of spousal status, signed by persons claiming to be common-law spouses.

2:40 p.m.

In so far as sex discrimination is concerned, most of this has already been removed from Ontario statutes. Such sex discrimination as still exists on the face of Ontario statutes can be traced largely to outmoded views expressed in statutes which simply have not been revised in recent times. Where such sex discrimination has been found, we are eliminating it.

A small number of amendments are being made in relation to the disabled. The number is small because there are very few statutory provisions that discriminate directly against the disabled. Most of the difficulties encountered by the disabled are raised not by specific statutory provisions but rather by a failure to reflect properly their special needs in various programs. We look forward to working with the disabled to identify and implement whatever legislative remedies are appropriate for problems they have encountered.

In so far as pending statute revisions in relation to the disabled are concerned, a complete review of the Mental Incompetency Act is under way. Ontario is also spearheading a project of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada to review the procedures for civil commitment to psychiatric institutions with a view to ensuring that civil rights are fully protected. In addition, we are continuing to work with the legal aid plan and other organizations to ensure that the government responds appropriately to the recommendations contained in Judge Abella's report, Access to Legal Services by the Disabled.

Today's bill includes amendments in relation to the right to vote of persons in psychiatric institutions during municipal elections and in the election of school trustees. The vote is also given to inmates who have not been sentenced and to judges. These changes parallel the changes made to the Elections Act last December. In another parallel to the Elections Act, the special voting rights of British subjects in municipal and school board elections will be repealed effective July 1, 1988.

In all these amendments we have demonstrated yet again our commitment to the great principle of equality that underlies the charter. It is worth remembering that it was the support of this province for the inclusion of a Charter of Rights in the Constitution that is responsible for the existence of the charter today. We are proud

of that accomplishment and proud that the principles proclaimed by the charter-equality, justice and fairness for all—are the principles that reflect our vision of Ontario.

MOBILITY RIGHTS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Pope: I am pleased to introduce today a bill, the Mobility Rights Statute Law Amendment Act, 1985, which further demonstrates the government's strong commitment to bringing Ontario legislation into conformity with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The bill amends eight Ontario statutes that contain a provincial residency requirement as a condition of employment by repealing that requirement. This gives effect to the purpose behind the charter's protection of mobility rights within Canada.

Section 6 of the charter guarantees mobility rights to every citizen and permanent resident of Canada. This bill will ensure that all Canadians are free to work in Ontario.

I note that in repealing many of the provincial residency requirements we have either left in the statute or added to it a requirement of residency in Canada. This will provide continuing protection for those types of employment in which Canadian residency is essential.

Nous sommes fiers d'apporter ces modifications et nous tenons à souligner que de semblables modifications ont déjà été introduites dans les Assemblées législatives des provinces de l'Alberta, de la Colombie-Britannique et de la Saskatchewan. Nous espérons que d'autres jurisdictions suivront bientôt notre voie.

ORAL OUESTIONS

AGRICULTURAL FUNDING

Mr. Riddell: Since so little mention was made of the primary industry in this province, agriculture, in the economic statement by the Treasurer (Miss Stephenson) yesterday, I feel the need to pose the following question to the Premier.

In mid-May, a federally sponsored study group including Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food representatives released its report supporting the need for a permanent farm financial review system. The report was a very comprehensive one, recommending ways of mediating the debt conflicts between farmers and their banks. The innovative recommendations it produced surely deserve consideration, given the financial problems of farmers across the province.

In view of the fact the farm financial picture is not improving and Ontario continues to lead the nation in farm bankruptcies, can the Premier explain why the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food has decided simply to dissociate itself from this report? Does he not feel it makes more sense to work quickly with the federal government to put the report's suggestions into place?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I was pleased to see that farm cash incomes in Ontario went up, I think 22 per cent last year.

Mr. Riddell: Tell it to the farmers.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Just a second; I did not try to say they are high enough. I was pleased to see they went up that amount. I was also pleased to see that in Ontario there was a reduction in farm bankruptcies. Apart from that, it seems to me that each time my Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Stevenson) is out, the honourable member directs a question—

Mr. Riddell: Bring him into the House.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Where is the member's leader? He has not been here for three days. He is out studying. On the other hand, his cohort, the leader of the NDP, is here.

Mr. Nixon: Our agricultural man is here; this is farm day.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I will ask the Minister of Agriculture and Food to answer the question.

Mr. Riddell: In bringing this matter to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, who unfortunately is not with us today, perhaps the Premier could also get a response to my supplementary.

In its announcement that it did not support the report, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food also proclaimed that it already had a variety of programs to meet farmers' problems. However, in the report of another recent study, sponsored by Bruce county and including Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food representation, similar recommendations calling for a strong financial review board were made in recognition that a rash of farm bankruptcies would have a destabilizing reaction beyond the farm community.

Recognizing that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture has also called upon the federal government to maintain its election promise of farm debt mediation—

Mr. Speaker: Is your question, "Do you agree?"

Mr. Riddell: It is coming right now, Mr. Speaker. You are a patient man.

I would like to ask the Premier what steps he has taken to remind his federal counterpart of the importance of that election promise and what assistance the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food will offer to any framework for farm debt mediation as a counterbalance to the banks' relative position of control.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Under the previous Minister of Agriculture and Food, or two back, we did quite a bit in the emergency years. We had the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program. A key ingredient of the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program remained advice to farmers, the creation of a business plan, a review of their assets, a review of their future, a review of their viability and general business advice.

Whether one is in the business of farming or whether one is in small business, we have learned through the Ontario Development Corp., through OFAAP and through other approaches that often for many people in business the most critical need is advice. Those programs were very successful because of the requirement to have a review of the existing farm operations. That was important.

On the other hand, we did bring out, announced in the throne speech and have in operation the farm operating credit assistance program in Ontario with some \$40 million assigned to it to tackle the problems of farmers, giving them several options including interest at 9.75 per cent. We repeated our willingness to have, if necessary, bipartite red meat stabilization programs. The member knows that.

We approached the federal government and asked it to have low-interest bonds for farmers because we believed in them. We are working hard and will continue to work hard for what we consider to be the most vital sector in Ontario.

Mr. Ramsay: All the programs the Premier has mentioned are really just Band-Aids on this problem. What we are looking at is a long-term problem. It is not just a matter of profits; it is a moral responsibility that we protect the farmers of this province, because they represent a lifestyle and the value of the work ethic. That is what is important.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Ramsay: When is the Ministry of Agriculture and Food going to establish low-interest, long-term debt servicing for farmers?

Hon. F. S. Miller: That was our approach with the bonds we talked about that are roughly a little more than half the going interest rate in the marketplace. I know the federal government has

to change the federal tax act for those. That, we believe, is a very important ingredient.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Riddell: If advice is so important, what advice is the Premier giving to the bankrupt farmers? It has been reported that 50 per cent of the farmers in northern Ontario and a third of the farmers in counties such as Grey and Bruce are facing bankruptcy and, according to the Farm Credit Corp. survey done more than a year ago, which is now out of date, 18 per cent of the farmers in this province are in dire financial straits. What advice is he giving those people?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am not going to try to challenge the member's figures, but they seem higher than any I have heard before.

We have been giving advice in a number of areas. The only long-term solution is a fair commodity price. The member opposite recognizes that the commodity prices for most of the products we sell in this province are subject to dampening effects because of the surplus foods in the world that are being sold in our own area. As well, many of the producers selling in our markets are selling out of highly subsidized home markets and are preventing the sale of Canadian products in their markets by many non-tariff-barrier approaches. Those are the ways in which we have to work to have a long-term solution for the farm community.

I know that even when I say this at home I am sometimes criticized, but I think the member will accept it as factual that we in North America, and particularly in Ontario, profit very handsomely from the fact that we have a tremendously efficient farm community, which currently does not get fair prices for its products.

MINORITY GROUP APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Curling: I have a question for the Premier. During the past several days I have received numerous calls from distinguished individuals representing various minority groups indicating they had been approached by government representatives about the possibility of serving on public boards or commissions. Almost all those individuals are asking me, "What is this all about?"

I would like to ask the Premier that very question. Why, after years of neglect, is the Conservative government taking such an instant interest in minority representation?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I certainly reject the editorial comment the honourable member added about years of neglect. It is just the opposite. If he had been following me around on the weekend—

indeed, to hear a number of my speeches lately and to events I have been attending—he would have found that it is far from neglect. If he had been following—

Mr. McClellan: As far back as this weekend. Hon. F. S. Miller: I have been Premier only since February 8. Please give me some time.

I want to emphasize that since I became leader, my colleagues on this side of the House have re-emphasized and reinforced our efforts to involve the many cultural communities of this city, and we intend to do so.

Mr. Curling: I am quite aware of the throne speech promises, and I certainly support the goal of increased minority representation on government bodies. However, I have to tell the Premier that my callers are asking another question: if they are to take the Premier seriously, where have all these people been for the past 40 years?

Given the fact that his new-found interest in minorities seems to be directly correlated to the instability of the government, does the Premier really expect anyone to believe this is anything but a last-gasp attempt to win political points?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I suggest to the member that the reception I get in many communities—such as the south Asian community on Sunday night in Maple Leaf Gardens, the Portuguese community at Ontario Place on Sunday afternoon and the Croatian community in Norval on Sunday, where I personally visited and saw about 25,000—shows they take this government seriously.

They recognize that Ontario is indeed a land of opportunity. They recognize that Ontario has been a great place to elect to come to. They recognize the potential of this province. They recognize that we live in peace in this province in a way that can be said of few other places in the world with the kind of multicultural background they have.

We have achieved something in Ontario that few other jurisdictions in the world, if any, have ever achieved: a growth in the wealth of our multicultural communities in peace, in harmony and in equality.

Mr. Lupusella: Considering that ethnic people in Ontario have been used for political purposes by the Conservatives provincially and the Liberals in Ottawa, can the Premier delineate to this House the tangible programs which ethnic people across Ontario are supposed to receive in order that the principles enunciated in the speech from the throne are going to be true?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I thought of the line as the honourable member said, "the Liberals"—but he qualified it by saying, "in Ottawa"—"Only in Ottawa? Pity."

Mr. Sweeney: Does the Premier know the new definition of PC? It is patronage Canada.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is a kind of a double-edged line.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I pay special attention to the member for Dovercourt (Mr. Lupusella), because he knows that is where I was born. I grew up in that multicultural community, so I understand the problems. I can assure him we are paying attention.

Mr. Curling: As early as April, the Premier stated his government needed to show it was listening to those communities and he doubted whether he would be able to find people with the qualifications that politicians normally look for. That leaves only one explanation for this sudden flurry of activity.

Can the Premier now understand why there is a bit of doubt being bred among people to accept and respond to these calls?

Hon. F. S. Miller: First, I simply disagree with the comment the gentleman made in terms of finding people with qualifications. He just finished complaining about us appointing too many. We certainly can find many and we intend to find many.

PATRONAGE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Rae: My question also deals with appointments, and I would like to ask the Premier to respond in particular to a concern that has been expressed to us by many Ontarians dealing with the Workers' Compensation Board.

As the Premier will be aware, the previous Legislature passed a new structure for the Workers' Compensation Board providing for the appointment of a new corporate board, an appeals tribunal and a number of workers' and employers' advisers. To date, there has been one appointment announced by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) with respect to the name of the chairman of the appeals tribunal.

I would ask the Premier whether it is the government's intention to name other appointees to the Workers' Compensation Board, including, I might add, the chairman of the board, since the current term of the chairman expires on July 1, 1985. I gather it was extended for a month and the current chairman is uncertain as to what his own status is going to be after July 1.

What are the Premier's intentions with regard to further appointments to the Workers' Compensation Board? Does he intend to make further appointments before June 18?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think about one week ago the honourable member was asking questions on this issue. I referred to the Workers' Compensation Board, I suspect it was Thursday of last week, and I think I said at that time that we had extended the appointment of existing people on the board to a uniform date of December 31, 1985, because of the projected change in the status of the board.

3 p.m.

Mr. Rae: I am not sure that entirely answers the question. Since an appointment has been made to the appeals tribunal and since those changes are taking effect, is the Premier today prepared to give this Legislature an ironclad guarantee that there will be no further patronage appointments to the Workers' Compensation Board before June 18, 1985?

Hon. F. S. Miller: No.

Mr. Mancini: In view of the fact that the Workers' Compensation Board has had a reputation, deserved or undeserved, for many significant problems, does the Premier not agree it would be highly improper for him to make these final appointments at this late stage, with his government dying and ready to be thrown out of office, when people are looking for major change and renewal at the Workers' Compensation Board and when only a new team can do that?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I do not know who the member is talking to. I hear a lot of people in this province telling me they are worried about the potential buddy-buddy system growing up over there. They are worried about the member's friends to his left wagging his tail. When the member goes home on weekends, he is going to find a lot of old Liberals in his riding who are not happy. They did not vote for those fellows to be the bosses of his party, so we will just carry on as though we may be the government.

Mr. Rae: If the Premier is not prepared to give a commitment with respect to the Workers' Compensation Board, does he not realize that 62 per cent of the people of this province expressed their will in an election on May 2, 1985, and that certain steps and positions have been taken by parties to try to put into effect as best they can a will for change? He is saying he will use the last days of Tory government to use a board and an act designed for the protection of working people as a vehicle for patronage and perpetuating the Tory party. That is exactly the implication of what he is saying.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The member has extended an answer into a lot of hyperbole. I would suggest 76 per cent of the people of this province thought they were electing some other form of government than one dominated by a minority party in the third position.

I want to tell the leader of the New Democratic Party one more thing-

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. No one wants to hear it.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mr. Rae: I have another question for the Premier. It deals with freedom of information.

Mr. Kerrio: What is that?

Mr. Rae: We are going to find out what it is. The throne speech, on page 34, says, "Better access to information about government activi-

ties will be secured by introduction of freedomof-information legislation, which will provide

for independent review."

I would like to ask the Premier a very straightforward question. We know of the existence in the Ministry of the Environment of several reports which have been carried out over a period of years and which deal with such basic matters as the most recent identification of the lakes that are suffering from acidic precipitation, the identity of nine sewage treatment plants which are responsible for the pollution of our Great Lakes, the identity of the major polluters discharging into Lake Ontario and a report with respect to the pollution of Lake Superior.

Will the Premier now, in the last few, gasping days of his Tory regime, finally release these reports as an indication the Tory party understands the meaning of freedom of information?

Hon. F. S. Miller: We will be releasing reports as we see fit. I am always intrigued by the contradictory approach of the honourable member. One day I should not do anything, I should give up, and the next day I should speed up.

I did not really finish answering the last question and I just wanted to read something into the record-

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I want to bring members attention to a quote in this little note that came to me: "A Liberal-New Democratic Party alliance would be like an ageing crone looking for the kiss of life from a young and handsome prospect. I think it is a terrible idea."

I had to do some research to see who said that. It was the man who just asked me the question, the member for York South (Mr. Rae).

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are a lot of members who still wish to ask questions during this question period and I would ask all members to govern themselves accordingly.

Mr. Rae: It is the attitude of the Premier, that he will release reports only when he sees fit, that makes so many people in this province delighted that the Conservative Party is going to be leaving office in a very short time.

If the Premier is seriously committed to freedom of information, as he says in the throne speech and is asking the people of the province to take seriously—I assume he meant this as a sincere document; I assume he meant it as something that he wanted to be taken either as his last will and testament or however he meant it it be taken, but he certainly meant it to be taken seriously. If he means it to be taken seriously, how does he equate that with his remark today that he will do these things when he sees fit?

Why does he not see fit to release the inventory of major source discharges in the Great Lakes? Why does he not see fit to release the acid sensitivity survey of lakes in Ontario? Why does he not see fit to release the sewage treatment plant study, the Niagara drinking water study, or a study of Lake Superior? Why does he not see fit to release those things today, before he leaves office?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I would gladly refer specific reports to the member. We have had a very good track record with respect to making information available. On the other side of the coin, members have to recognize that in any scientific group there will be those who will challenge the authenticity of a single report and that is very often the reason a given report is not made public. It is when it has passed the scrutiny of peers that it may become public.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. O'Neil: Do we have the Premier's commitment that those reports now under the jurisdiction of the Minister of the Environment (Ms. Fish) will continue to be there and not be put through the shredders?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I would like the honourable member to disabuse himself of the idea there are shredders all around. First, those reports are not in the minister's offices, they are in the staff offices. If the member happens to be lucky enough, he will find the civil service of this

province is loyal to the government, no matter who the government may be. They are very loyal people. They will serve anyone who is, by the good luck of an election or the decision of the Lieutenant Governor, given the responsibility for running it. Before the member starts digging holes impugning the motives of staff, he should just wait.

Mr. Rae: I am not for a moment questioning the motives of staff, I am questioning the motives of the Tory party of this province.

On Wednesday, April 10, 1985, a scientist with the International Joint Commission working out of Columbus, Ohio, said, according to the Globe and Mail: "'I am told that the ministry has been embarrassed by some of its reports, so it is filling some leaks up,' Dr. Edwards said in a telephone interview. 'I heard it has a lot to do with the election, so it is hard to know whether it is permanent constipation or merely temporary.'"

As the election was held on May 2—and we all know the result of the election—what is the Premier's problem now with releasing this information which is basic to the right to know of every single citizen of this province? Does he not think the people of this province have a right to know what is going on in our lakes, forests and air? I do.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I think the member may have missed, in the chatter of the place a moment ago, my suggestion that I would find out from the minister just where these reports are. Obviously, I cannot talk to specific reports. I simply suggest to him that peer review is a critical part of the process before reports are issued.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: I just received a note stating that Mr. Art Jolley, a former member for the riding of Niagara Falls, is sitting in the members' gallery. Please join me in welcoming him.

Mr. Martel: One for the road, Eddie.

Mr. Sargent: I think we could sell tickets to these shows.

Mr. Speaker: Does the honourable member have a question?

TRITIUM PRODUCTION

Mr. Sargent: I have a question of the Minister of Energy. George–

Mr. Wrye: Mike.

Mr. Breaugh: It is just a wedge shot.

Mr. Sargent: It is a wedge shot. I would like to talk to the minister about tritium, bombs and Ontario Hydro. There will be a few facts here.

Tritium boosts the yield of an atom bomb about 1,000 times, is essential to the manufacture of the powerful warheads and is one of the most deadly substances known to mankind. Now that Ontario Hydro has made extensive plans to be involved in the USA Star Wars program by supplying tritium which is essential in making nuclear bombs, and plutonium, will the minister please furnish the following information:

One of my constituents, Mr. Horace McInnes of Chesley, Ontario, was employed by Douglas Point nuclear plant and died a painful, lingering death of tritium poisoning. I could not get any acknowledgement from Hydro as to the acceptance of blame on its part. I now have another case this week.

In view of the recent disclosure that tritium will be processed in Pickering and Darlington to sell at \$15 million a kilogram, will the minister please consider supplying contracts between Ontario Hydro and the US laser fusion branch of the United States Department of Energy to make the largest tritium production centre in the world, to be located at Darlington?

Mr. Speaker: I think you have already covered a couple of questions.

Mr. Sargent: Yes. It says that in the description here. What deliveries would be made? What are the delivery dates? Are these deliveries approved by the federal Department of External Affairs?

Hon. Mr. Harris: Where is George when I need him?

I think I have been asked about 15 or 16 questions. I would be glad to take them under advisement and seek out the answers for the honourable member.

Mr. Sargent: Is the minister aware that the tritium orders to the US will be eight to 20 times the quantity needed for the world's civilian use and 36 per cent of the quantity needed for US nuclear weapons use? I would ask him and the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) why a colossal decision such as this, already made by Hydro, should not come before this Legislature for approval.

Hon. Mr. Harris: Am I aware? I am not sure what I am supposed to be aware of. It sounded to me as if Hydro has now formed a company for manufacture for Star Wars. The member has asked so many things.

I indicated to the Legislature that no, I was not aware of all the questions the member asked. I will be glad to look into the matter for him and provide him with the answers.

Mr. Wildman: Can the minister assure this House that it is the position of his government and of the party of which he is a member that no tritium produced in this province will be used for warlike purposes by the American government and that it will not be used in such a way as to free up tritium produced in the United States for those kinds of uses?

Hon. Mr. Harris: I would be delighted to give the member the assurances. I might have to check with Mr. Reagan; I will do that tonight.

Mr. Foulds: Does he set the policy for your party?

Hon. Mr. Harris: The members opposite asked whether I could give them assurances. I said I would check into the questions and provide them with the details and with the answers.

INDIAN LAND AGREEMENT

Mr. Pouliot: I have a question for the young and handsome Minister of Natural Resources regarding the very real issue of the Assabaska Indian land claim. The claim is for a parcel of about 1,600 acres of land located in northwestern Ontario near Lake of the Woods.

Can the minister please advise the House that his ministry has settled its differences with the federal government? If so, will he give a firm commitment about when this claim will be settled?

Hon. Mr. Harris: Concerning the specific land claim that the member refers to, I understand we are in the process of negotiations with the federal government. I am advised that we are getting close and that settlement is imminent.

Mr. Pouliot: I need not remind the minister that this claim was first launched in 1977. The error was recognized in 1930, a few years before his government took office. The people of the band are getting very upset. The government's track record in dealing with this very important issue, in dealing with the life and future of our first citizens, reads like a litany of omissions.

Can the minister at least give our first Canadians the assurance that this claim will be addressed in a serious fashion before he leaves office some time next Tuesday?

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Harris: Let me first assure the honourable member that this government has addressed and continues to address the problem in a serious fashion.

Let me also assure him that my ministry and this government have not been involved in holding up a settlement. I am advised that the new minister in Ottawa seems to have a much stronger interest in coming to a consensus and is bringing the problems forward in a more serious fashion than was the case in previous years. We are not holding up a settlement. As I indicated, with the new attitude of the federal government the settlement is imminent and we treat it seriously.

I believe the other part of the question was, can I assure the Legislature that I will have it settled by Tuesday? No, I cannot give the member that assurance, but my ministry and the government of Ontario are ready to have it settled by Tuesday.

Mr. Scott: I come from a forum where it is usual to ask questions and occasionally get answers. I wonder if I could try to get an answer from the minister to a supplementary question. It is a very simple question.

Is the minister aware that the item to which he is directing himself was on the agenda 40 years ago, before he was even born, when this government first took office? If he recognizes that, can he explain to this House why it has not yet been settled?

Hon. Mr. Harris: I am not sure whether it has been 40 years. If it was 40 years ago, the honourable member is very close to whether or not I was then born; I admit to that.

Let me tell him that had the great riding of Nipissing sent me here sooner, I might have solved it sooner. I have been here only four years and I have been in the ministry only three months. I think a settlement is imminent.

DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEE

Mr. Barlow: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Recently, a decision was handed down by the Ontario Crown Employees Grievance Settlement Board to reinstate Wayne Tyler, who I think had on two prior occasions, for a total of three occasions, been released from the employ of the ministry for sexual actions with clients. I understand this individual has again been reinstated by decision of the board. I wonder whether the minister can tell me if he is taking any action to appeal the most recent decision.

Hon. Mr. Eves: With respect to the decision of the grievance board that was rendered on June 4, a week ago today, the honourable member is quite correct in that it did order a reinstatement, but a dissenting opinion was also involved. This decision is currently being looked at by legal staff, not only of my ministry but of the Attorney General's ministry as well. We will have a

ministry decision with respect to the matter after the legal advice is received.

Mr. Barlow: Does the minister have any idea how long it might take before the decision is reached?

Hon. Mr. Eves: I expect it will be reached within a week.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Mr. McGuigan: My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources. Following the mercury contamination of Lake St. Clair, commercial fishermen have been banned from taking pickerel, although sports fishermen are allowed to do so. His ministry has decided to reserve the species for sports fishermen. It would appear that this decision is based entirely on the numbers of the two classes of fishermen. As a matter of fairness and simple justice, would his ministry give consideration to buying out the remaining active licensees?

Hon. Mr. Harris: It is my understanding that, as a result of the mercury contamination, back around 1979 or 1980 the commercial fishermen in the area received compensation; it was at that time or before. Around 1980 they asked whether they could go back and fish commercially. I may not have the exact dates, but there was a period when there was no commercial fishing in the Lake St. Clair area at all.

Negotiations were entertained at that time with the Ministry of Natural Resources about whether there was a viable commercial fishery in the nonpickerel species in Lake St. Clair; our ministry was involved in negotiations with the commercial fishermen. It is my understanding a recommendation was made that it would be viable for up to five commercial fishermen.

The commercial fishermen suggested that even though it might not be as viable, and they acknowledged the viability problem, they would prefer to have 10, and an agreement was made that there would be 10 commercial fishermen on the lake. There was also a commitment from my ministry to review the agreement at the end of five years, which comes up this summer.

I have indicated to those commercial fishermen that we are prepared to review the situation and we will undertake it this summer with recommendations to be made to the minister this fall. Until that review is done and an assessment of the fishery is made, I do not think there can be any commitment from this ministry as to what the solution may or may not be for those fishermen.

Mr. McGuigan: I remind the minister that years ago the compensation, if any, was minus-

cule. According to a press report, "Art Holder of Toronto, director of the ministry's fisheries branch, confirmed today that a review of the ban took place recently and a decision was made to continue to enforce it, despite pleas from commercial anglers on the lake."

Is the minister aware that commercial fishermen now number only 10, down from a peak of 100 in 1969? They are descendants of the people who built the roads around the shoreline and developed the area so that it is an anglers' paradise today.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the member has gone by the question mark. The question was asked.

Mr. McGuigan: Does the minister not think the ministry owes these people some recognition for their past and present services?

Hon. Mr. Harris: I thank the member for reminding me that there are 10. There was none for a period of time. I am aware there were 90 or 100 originally and then there was none. The fishermen accepted the settlement, which was made in good faith on behalf of the ministry. Now there are 10 at the insistence of the commercial fishermen when, as I understand it, the ministry recommended there be only five.

I personally have made a commitment, and I think Mr. Holder has made a commitment to those commercial fishermen, that we are prepared at the end of the five-year review, which takes place this year, to look at their situation, to look into the viability of the 10 and to see whether there is a solution through consolidation or through an investigation of the stocks.

Mr. Wildman: In view of the comments made by the minister's predecessor that when quotas were being imposed generally on the Great Lakes commercial fishery they would not be detrimental to the commercial fisherman, is the minister aware that the quotas have cut the income of commercial fishermen throughout the Great Lakes substantially to the point where they cannot make a viable living?

If he is prepared to review it for Lake St. Clair, to review the whole situation and to look at what compensation can be given to commercial fishermen, who just do not have a viable living now that the quotas are imposed?

3:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Harris: I am not sure that is supplementary, but I do not mind answering what is really a question involving all commercial fishermen. Many commercial fishermen are doing quite well. The commercial fishing industry as a whole has supported the fact that stocks

have to be protected. In fact, we should be operating our fisheries on a sound management basis. We cannot be allowing more fish to be taken for the sake of one or two years' return at the expense of the stock, so we have to proceed with sustained yield.

If the member is asking if we are we prepared to look at it, of course we are. We review it on an ongoing basis. He will recall there have been announcements from my ministry allowing the sale of partial quotas, something the commercial fishermen had asked for, another mechanism they felt would help them to rationalize themselves in those cases where some are experiencing hardship. The commercial fishermen have accepted quotas and have accepted the need for rationalization of the industry.

The member will be aware that I made an announcement not very many weeks ago about eastern Lake Ontario, where we are involved in a buyout program to assist them in the rationalization of the industry there. We are constantly reviewing the state of affairs in the commercial fishing industry, but I have to tell the member that it is within the context, and accepted by the commercial fishing industry, that quotas are necessary.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mrs. Grier: My question is for the Premier and it concerns a questionnaire that was sent to all candidates in the recent election campaign by the Project for Environmental Priorities. Can the Premier reconcile the statements in the speech from the throne–welcome, albeit somewhat overdue–that indicate support for environmental protection with the fact that when the questionnaire was sent out only 24 members of the present Conservative caucus even returned it and, of those, 14 were unable to answer yes to a single one of the questions?

Hon. F. S. Miller: One of our ministers was talking about that questionnaire the other day because he was quoted as not having responded. He happens to be the current Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Brandt). I understand he has a letter of apology saying that, indeed, he never received the questionnaire even though he was being named as a nonrespondent. I think that happened to several of us on this side.

The fact remains that we have a very real concern for the environment—the member knows that—and we are showing it in the throne speech.

Mrs. Grier: Will the Premier then tell the House how much money has been allocated for the programs indicated in the speech from the

throne? Would he not agree that the cuts in the budget of the Ministry of the Environment, which have totalled approximately \$33 million during the last four years, have contributed to the environmental problems that now face us?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The other day I had the list of all the environmental programs announced so far. I will gladly get it. I cannot remember the figures. However, those that are not yet defined will come up either at budget time or in estimates. I will answer the question in more detail tomorrow.

Mr. McGuigan: As part of the Premier's conversion when he is about to give up office, and while he is making the patronage appointments he is making, does he not think it would be wise to send a signal out to the public about the environment that is contrary to the signals coming from the budgets in Washington, Ottawa and Toronto, which indicate that all three governments have lost their interest in the environment? Does he not think it would be a nice gesture to go out on a high note?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I would rather stay on the note I am on.

I challenge the honourable member to find any state or province in North America that has done a better job than this province has done. I say that in all sincerity.

I have the answer to the question that was asked a minute ago. The waste security fund was \$100 million, the beach protection fund was \$20 million and the Ministry of the Environment package—I have only the first year's costs, which would be lower than the average—was \$3 million.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Labour has a reply to a previous question.

MEDICAL LABOUR DISPUTE

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Yesterday the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) asked a question about the Canadian Medical Laboratories in Hamilton and Simcoe with respect to the Inflation Restraint Board's ruling about a wage increase owing to employees there.

Reduced to essentials, the facts in the situation are that the Inflation Restraint Board did issue an order that the employer pay to its bargaining unit employees at the Hamilton and Simcoe laboratories a wage increase of nine per cent for the period from July 1, 1982, through June 30, 1983. The employer is contesting the board's order and has instituted judicial review proceedings. I am advised that the judicial review application has not yet been perfected by Canadian Medical

Laboratories and that they have until October 1985 to do so.

The Ministry of the Attorney General is representing the Inflation Restraint Board in this judicial review. I have requested that my colleague the Attorney General (Mr. Pope) determine what, if anything, can be done to expedite the judicial review proceedings. I would note also that the trade union is a party to the court proceedings and has not sought an expedited resolution, which is its right.

I am advised that the trade union is seeking an alternative remedy through the arbitration procedures of its collective agreement. In the meantime, I can advise members that the Inflation Restraint Board has filed with the Supreme Court of Ontario a certified copy of its order against Canadian Medical Laboratories. The effect of the board's order being filed with the Supreme Court is that it can be enforced as a civil judgement against the employer in the event the court determines the board's ruling was proper.

Mr. Mackenzie: The information the minister has given is essentially correct. However, as the minister must surely understand, the concern is that these employees have now been waiting 36 months. It is seven months since the employer, in a deliberate stall and nothing else, filed for a judicial review of the board's order. Seven months later he has not even filed with the board his statement of evidence.

It is so obvious they are doing the workers in and that the employer is deliberately trying to deny that award. What avenue do these workers have? Sure, they are looking at other avenues. They are totally and absolutely frustrated by the flouting of the law of this province through the actions of the employer.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. Mackenzie: The Inflation Restraint Board itself is very frustrated. What is the government doing? We raised this a year or a year and a half ago; I have raised it a number of times.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I can understand the frustration the member and others, the employees in particular, may feel about this.

Mr. Mackenzie: Thirty-six months.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: It is a frustration many of us may share. But there are certain procedures that are open to the public, be they employers or employees, in this province under our judicial system, and one of them is the process of judicial review. In this case the employer has until October 1985 to perfect the documentation of

that application. Failing that, what has been filed in the court immediately, as I said in my earlier remarks, leaves open the opportunity for a civil

judgement.

As I said before, I asked the Attorney General if there were any ways the matter could be expedited. As the member well knows, the union has that option and it is currently looking through its collective bargaining agreement with respect to the arbitration options it might have. Let us not try to pretend we are on different sides of this issue, as the member so often tries to do in this House.

Mr. Mackenzie: I would not wait 36 months.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: We have certain judicial processes that are being followed. If the member is asking this government to set aside those judicial procedures and those rights and obligations we have in this society, I honestly do not know how that can be done and still retain the society as we know it.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Ms. E. J. Smith: My question is of the Minister of Health. Some several months ago 60 chronic care beds were assigned to Grace Villa, a private hospital in London. Since that time the owner, Mr. Buxbaum, has come into serious legal difficulties and these beds have been cancelled.

They now could be reassigned to other hospitals and could not be assigned to this hospital because it is not a public hospital. The Thames Valley District Health Council has approached the two other possible hospitals about assuming these licences and the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Mary's Hospital have agreed they could accommodate them. Since that time there has been nothing but stalling on the reassignment of these beds. Since the need was already established and accepted by the government, why are we now faced with stalling and lame excuses?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I will have to take the question as notice and respond at a later date.

3:40 p.m.

ASSISTED HOUSING

Ms. Gigantes: I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. In correspondence I initiated in January, to which he replied in May, he suggested the Ontario Housing Corp. would undertake an active review of the ruling that said psychiatrically disabled people were no longer eligible for assisted housing in Ontario. He said he would pay close

personal attention to it. If he has paid close personal attention, how many people have been affected by being arbitrarily ruled ineligible?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I have recommended to the executive council that it be changed, and I will be notifying the housing authorities in the very near future.

Ms. Gigantes: How can I express my thanks?
Mr. Speaker: Was that a supplementary? I could not hear.

Ms. Gigantes: I said, "How can I express my thanks?"

PCB DESTRUCTION

Mr. Ruprecht: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Why is the Commission on the Regulatory Control of Mobile PCB Destruction Facilities postponing its recommendation on how to deal with the ministry's proposal to use three burning methods to destroy polychlorinated biphenyls within our cities?

Hon. Ms. Fish: The commission has 60 days to complete its report. The 60 days expire June 29. I wrote to the commission chairman requesting that the report be expedited so it could be dealt with even prior to the expiry of the allowable 60-day period.

Mr. Ruprecht: It happens that it has not been expedited.

In the light of the new developments in PCB destruction methods, of which the minister is aware, is her ministry proposing that the PCBs be destroyed anywhere, including urban centres, within 300 feet of homes or food processing plants? Has her ministry changed its mind on the destruction methods?

Hon. Ms. Fish: My ministry is awaiting the considered advice of the commission, which undertook very lengthy public review, submissions and hearings to deal with the questions of the two forms of mobile PCB destruction, their appropriate use, the location, the terms and conditions under which any such mobile equipment should be used. We are awaiting the final results of the commission's hearings and its deliberations. I repeat that by the terms of reference of that commission it has until June 29. I have asked that it be expedited. We are as anxious as possible to receive the report and to act in accordance with it.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: It is an awkward and difficult point of privilege that involves the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Harris). I would ask him if he

does not think all our privileges as members are being abused by the activities of his ministry in the Nipissing area, where it is installing listening and watching devices on an Indian reserve to determine whether there are violations of the fishing laws. Would he confirm that?

Mr. Speaker: That sounds to me as if it is really not a point of privilege, it is a question. Probably the member could relay that at the appropriate time, maybe Thursday.

PETITIONS

SCRAPYARD LOCATION

Mr. Wrye: I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario which reads as follows:

"I, the undersigned, urge that the government of Ontario take action to remove Zalev Brothers scrapyard from its present location to new facilities. I believe the present proximity to residential neighbourhoods renders this industry incompatible with the surrounding area.

"I urge the Ministry of the Environment, in collaboration with Zalev, to urgently seek a new location for this industry to ensure the jobs of Zalev employees are retained."

This petition is signed by 128 individuals and families in the riding of Windsor-Sandwich.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Ferraro: I have a petition that was presented to me on behalf of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation in my riding. It was presented to me by David Evale, the president, and an associate.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas any action to extend public funding to separate Roman Catholic secondary schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas it is uncertain whether extension would contravene the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"Whereas in democratic societies there is a recognized convention which respects the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters are debated in the Legislative Assembly, with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard before an appropriate committee of the Legislature;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government:

"(1) to seek a constitutional referral prior to any implementation to determine whether extension would conflict with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"(2) to debate fully the issue of extension prior to any implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for the people to appear and be heard."

The petition is signed by 212 people from my constituency.

Mr. Martel: Since all my petitions are exactly like those read by the member who spoke just before me, I will simply submit them to the Clerk.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have several petitions to present. Three are on behalf of my cabinet colleagues the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes), the member for Wentworth (Mr. Dean) and the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz). I also have five petitions from Wellington-Dufferin-Peel: Eramosa United Church, Moorefield United Church, Mount Forest District High School, Erin District High School and Centre Wellington District High School.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas any action to extend public funding to separate Roman Catholic secondary schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas it is uncertain whether extension would contravene the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"Whereas in democratic societies there is a recognized convention which respects the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters are debated in the Legislative Assembly, with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard before an appropriate committee of the Legislature;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government:

"(1) to seek a constitutional referral prior to any implementation to determine whether extension would conflict with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"(2) to debate fully the issue of extension prior to any implementation, such debate to include

consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for the people to appear and be heard."

Mr. McLean: I too have some petitions. I have four from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, the county of Simcoe school boards. They are addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and they read the same as the previous petitions.

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition signed by more than 200 residents of the province. It is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly. It too concerns the question of separate school funding and concludes:

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to delay the implementation of the proposed separate secondary school funding until appropriate, constitutionally acceptable legislation is in place."

3:50 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

EQUALITY RIGHTS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Pope moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Timbrell, first reading of Bill 7, An Act to amend the Equality Rights Statute Law Act.

Motion agreed to.

MOBILITY RIGHTS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Pope moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Timbrell, first reading of Bill 8, An Act to amend the Mobility Rights Statute Law Act.

Motion agreed to.

MINISTRY OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Gillies moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Leluk, first reading of Bill 9, An Act to establish the Ministry of Skills Development.

Motion agreed to.

LABOUR RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Newman, first reading of Bill 10, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: The purpose of the bill is to provide a mechanism whereby the Lieutenant Governor in Council can order a 60-day suspension of a strike or lockout and order to return to

work where the strike or lockout constitutes an immediate and serious danger to life, health and safety or seriously disrupts the economy of the province or any area of the province.

The bill provides that the Minister of Labour must appoint a conciliation officer where an order suspending a strike or lockout has been made and may subsequently appoint a conciliation board if the efforts of the conciliation officer to effect a collective agreement are unsuccessful. If the conciliation efforts are unsuccessful, the strike or lockout may be resumed without a further strike vote. An order made under the bill would be enforceable as an order of the Supreme Court.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Mancini: I am pleased return to the debate that I adjourned yesterday afternoon. I forgot to mention and to congratulate the member for Carleton East (Mr. Morin) on his election as Deputy Chairman of the committee of the whole House. The Speaker may recall that I congratulated him on his election, and I congratulated the Deputy Speaker. I certainly would want the record to show that the member for Carleton East is going to have a large hand in overseeing the operations of the House. We know the many skills he has and are looking forward to co-operating with him and working under his leadership when he is in the chair.

You may recall, Mr. Speaker, that before the House adjourned yesterday I was speaking to the Conservative members and the Conservative government. I suggested to them that they possibly should leave office with some self-respect. However, whether or not they accept that suggestion is another matter. It appears to me and to my colleagues they will cling to every possibility, wish for every wish and ask for any miracle that may extend their 42-year reign.

The leader of the government is now seeking spiritual help to save his government. He was quoted in the Globe and Mail of Tuesday, June 11, as being willing to climb stairs "on my knees if you want me to." He was referring to the shrine of Brother André in Quebec, which is said to have provided miracles for people in need of them. This government is not in need of miracles;

it is in need of spending an awfully long time on the opposition benches.

I want to refer to several parts of the constituency I represent, to some of the difficulties we unfortunately have had to deal with and to what we can do to make the conditions of the constituency and the constituents somewhat easier and somewhat less painful.

We have been made aware of the unfortunate situation around the Barrie area where that brute of a tornado tore through that part of Ontario, causing death and destruction wherever it touched the ground. I was pleased that almost immediately the Ontario government declared that part of the province to be a disaster area under the Ontario disaster relief program. Indeed, I am heartened that the government has extended the program, which originally called for a one-to-one dollar match, to ensure there will be a three-to-one match for every dollar given by the citizens and corporations of Ontario.

Mr. Martel: Give 'em hell, Remo.

Mr. Mancini: I am always encouraged by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel). Under this new alliance, I think our friendship will continue to grow.

4 p.m.

Getting back to the tornado, I was very pleased the cabinet made the original decision and at how quickly it was able to change the regulations and the part of the program dealing with the amount of relief and aid for the citizens.

Some members of the House may not realize that all of Essex county has suffered from very high waters. We have suffered approximately \$11 million worth of damage. After a few weeks of coaxing and convincing and some representations that were made to the proper ministries, we were happy to hear that the portions of Essex county that were severely hurt by the high waters were declared a disaster area. We are now in the process of submitting accounts of the destruction to the Essex Region Conservation Authority and to the independent committee chaired by the warden of Essex county so we can adequately look after the problems.

I want to have on record that I believe it is important for us to review in the very near future what we do in cases of disaster situations. For example, Barrie and Essex county have been classified disaster areas, but before any funds can reach the people who have been hurt we have to go through a long and very cumbersome procedure.

A committee has to be set up. I agree that can be done rather swiftly. However, regarding the money portion, no money is transferred from the government to the committee involved in distributing funds to the people who have been hurt until the community responds. If it takes a few weeks or several months to raise the appropriate amount of money to assist the people who have been affected the most, what are the individuals and families to do in the meantime?

They must go to the banks or other financial institutions. If they are able to, they will get assistance from friends and relatives, but in many cases that is not possible. I believe we should look at the disaster relief program so that once an area has been declared a disaster area some moneys can be made available immediately, up front and without any questions asked, to the committee that is ultimately responsible for dispensing the moneys that have been raised.

The example I wish to give in Essex county is quite appropriate in the circumstances I am describing. Where people have been forced from their homes because of high waters, with the main level of homes completely flooded and therefore not livable, moneys are not available for repair or for people to move into new quarters. This causes tremendous financial hardship, worry and suffering. When people are in a situation where they really have nowhere to go and no one to turn to, that is as great as the damage caused by the natural disaster.

I would like to have the disaster review program looked at again, taking into consideration the things that happen to people and taking into consideration the difficulty we have in raising money and, most important, the time it takes to raise money. Unfortunately, in the last couple of weeks we were also subjected to a rather horrific hailstorm that centred around the Leamington, Mersea and Gosfield townships area where approximately 75 per cent of all the greenhouses in Canada are situated. The hail was bigger than golf balls. We all read in the newspapers and saw on TV what that did to the glass greenhouses, of which we have several hundred acres. We are told that approximately 100 acres of glass have been destroyed. Coupled with the crops that have been ruined, we have an estimate of damage of anywhere from \$40 million to \$50 million. That is truly a disaster by any standards.

This happened just before the tornado in Barrie. Unfortunately, the publicity that might have been helpful in bringing this information to the general public was not available because of the disaster in Barrie. I guess it was actually a

very tough week for the people of Ontario to have all this damage inflicted on our citizens.

In speaking of the greenhouse industry, I should inform the members that it costs approximately \$300,000 to build one acre of glass greenhouse. That is an awful lot of money. Most of the glass in these greenhouses has been shattered. I am told the repairs that are going to be needed for the replacement of the glass, as well as for labour, are going to cost anywhere from \$90,000 to \$120,000 per acre. Multiply that by 100 and add the crops that have been lost. Approximately 60 per cent of the crop in the greenhouse section that was damaged has been lost, so we have lost a large sum to our community.

Thank God the hailstorm struck between noon and 1 p.m.; the farmers and workers were not in the greenhouses. It is shocking to think what would have happened if someone had been in the greenhouses when the hailstorm hit and glass was flying in all directions. It is certainly shocking to think what would have happened if people had been caught in that very unfortunate situation.

Anyway, we thank God this was not the case. We are still able to regroup and rebuild the greenhouse industry. Yes, we are looking for assistance from the government of Ontario. I want to thank the senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food who have spent some time down in the Essex South riding. We have now met with most of the agricultural groups that have been affected.

Not only the greenhouse industry was affected; outside field crops were also hurt. We talked to the field growers. The fruit crops have been hurt. We have met with some representatives of the fruit sector in the area. We have had a lot of good input from them and we are working on a plan of assistance that I hope will adequately meet the need to get the industry going again and into the marketplace for next spring.

So as we continue to work to assist the people in Essex county in the areas I have described, I would once again suggest that a full review of how we treat disasters would be appropriate at this time.

The member for Brock (Mr. Partington) stated during his reply to the throne speech that the government of Ontario had introduced an energy-efficiency program for the greenhouse industry, that it was bending over backwards to help this industry and was doing I do not know how many different things.

The member should go back and read Hansard. He will find out who suggested to the government of Ontario the reasons for which we needed assistance to the greenhouse industry. He will quickly find out that the government did not do this out of goodwill; it did it because it was absolutely necessary and because of the representations it had received from Essex county and from the Greenhouse Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board. It was like moving an elephant to get it to respond to a very vital industry.

Mr. Van Horne: A jumbo, an ageing elephant.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Mancini: A jumbo elephant. Yes.

Some members, particularly the new members in the House, may not be familiar with the riding of Essex South. I know the present Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) is familiar with the riding because he pretty well knows the province like the back of his hand. But there may be some members who are not really familiar with it, so I would like to take four or five minutes—I would like to take longer, but the whip says I cannot because so many members wish to speak—to give the members a thumbnail sketch of the Essex South riding.

I live in Amherstburg, a very historic town. We have many buildings that have been officially designated as historic by the province and some are also acknowledged by the federal government. We have the museum in the Fort Malden National Historic Park which refers to Amherstburg at its inception. It was originally a fort used primarily during the War of 1812. We are very pleased the federal government has supported the fort, has allowed it to grow and has allowed this museum to grow. Actually, it has become quite a drawing card to the area.

I am told the new Conservative government of Canada does not have these types of cultural and historical buildings, surroundings and lands at the top of its agenda and we may receive some cuts in the operation of Fort Malden. That would be sad.

As we move westward, we pass the fine town of Harrow. There was a winery established in Harrow a few short years ago. I am told that at one of the Progressive Conservative dinners, one of the big dinners where they charge people \$200 just to walk in the door, they served wine from this winery in Harrow. It is called Colio wine.

If any members in the House are going to visit the liquor store after six o'clock and want a good bottle of wine, they should look for Colio. However, I cannot plug Colio without telling members that we have built a new winery about eight miles west of Harrow. It is called the Pelee

Island Winery. We tell all members who use this type of thing for medicinal purposes when they do not feel well and feel they have to buy a bottle of Colio or a bottle of the wine made by the people at the Pelee Island Winery, their money will be well spent and they will be that much more familiar with the Essex South riding.

Mr. Swart: You are getting off the topic now. There are a lot of sour grapes on the other side.

Mr. Mancini: We do not use sour grapes in our wine. I realize there are a lot of sour grapes over there, but none of those grapes can be used by Colio or by the Pelee Island Winery, we have already established that. We serve only the number one product.

As we move eastward, we pass through the town of Kingsville to the township of Mersea. Leamington would be the next largest centre, really the hub of the southeastern part of Essex county with approximately 12,000 people. Leamington is famous for many reasons. Leamington is the tomato capital of the world. Leamington has the Point Pelee National Park, famous for its wildlife. Are there any birdwatchers in the assembly?

Mr. Breaugh: Oh, yes.

Mr. Mancini: I am glad to see there are a few birdwatchers in the assembly because Learnington is absolutely famous for birds, there is no doubt about it. At a certain part of the season—I think it is in the spring, but I do not remember exactly—one cannot find a room in Learnington and nearby because birdwatchers from all over North America have come to participate in what they find to be a very joyful experience.

I am also proud that I represent a tiny portion of Kent county, the village of Wheatley, the citizenry of which I got to know very well over

the past 10 years.

Last, but not least, is the township of Pelee Island which is just a few kilometres south of Leamington in Lake Erie. The people have to put up with a great deal of hardship because they are islanders. Anyone who lives on an island knows exactly what I am talking about. We are looking for many ways to help with the services they need.

Pelee Island is also important for another reason. Are there any members of the Legislature who like to hunt? We had some birdwatchers and now we have some hunters. Pelee Island is famous across North America for its pheasant hunt. Twice a year, the township of Pelee Island turns out, lets loose pheasants they have raised on the pheasant farm, and hundreds of hunters from all over buy licenses and passes to the island to

participate in the hunt. This is one of the largest revenue sources the island has, so it is important to remind people of it.

Although I am not a hunter, I have tasted the pheasants from Pelee Island, and unless they are full of buckshot they probably will be good eating. The municipal council would want me to remind the members. I always receive a couple of passes to the hunt which I do not use, and if some members treat me nicely I will consider offering them one.

An hon. member: That is patronage.

Mr. Mancini: Since the Tory members object, I will not consider them for any of the passes.

I am very pleased to have returned to the Legislature, not only as a representative of the riding of Essex South with the full confidence of the people in my area, but I am very pleased to return to such a large, new group of members in the Liberal Party. We are anxious and looking forward to taking on the responsibilities of government, not for the same reasons the Tories have had for the last 42 years but for altogether different ones. We know the mentality of the Tory members and we know why they are clinging to power the way they are. They should be embarrassed and leave with some self-respect.

We are looking forward to serving the people of Ontario, not trying to be their masters the way the Progressive Conservative Party has been over the last 42 years. That system has gone. The masters have now left and the colonial mansion has been burned down. New people have been asked to give representation and leadership. I hope, with the co-operation of all members of the House, we will be able to do that in very good fashion.

Mr. Ramsay: It is a great honour and a pleasure to be speaking in this House today, representing the people of Timiskaming. This will be a similar speech to the one we just heard. I represent one of the most beautiful ridings in this province. I am not inviting anybody up for hunting or fishing trips this summer, I want to keep it all to myself; but we encourage tourists to come and share the delights of our area.

It is quite a unique part of northern Ontario. A lot of people may not be aware of our diverse topography. Some may think it all looks like one of the Group of Seven's paintings but—

An hon. member: Your mosquitoes are as big as their pheasants.

Mr. Ramsay: Yes, but I do not want that in the record. I will not talk about some of the insects that fly around. They are all quite benign at this time of the year. I wonder who paid this guy on our side to heckle me.

4:20 p.m.

The variety of our topography ranges from the lake district of Temagami to the wonderful little clay belt where I farm. As I say to many of my colleagues—and I know they are upset to hear this all the time—if you find a stone on my farm, somebody put it there. We have beautiful top soils in our area that rival those of the Ukraine. We grow very similar cereal grains.

North of the clay belt we have the rugged mining country of the Kirkland Lake gold camps. Then we have Matachewan Lake and Larder Lake in the iron ore country. We are blessed with many of the resources of the north in our riding.

I would like to comment briefly on some of the deficiencies I have found in some of the supplies at my desk here. I have noticed, for instance, that there are no toothpicks in my desk. Having come down sometimes to the gallery and having observed our former member, I thought portable dental hygiene appliances were standard equipment with the supplies here; I see they are not. Now that I see that, I take my hat off to the former member for supporting the one industry of Timiskaming. That was probably his sole reason for doing that. I also find there are no books of off-colour jokes or ethnic slurs in my desk. I thought that was probably standard equipment.

Interjection.

Mr. Ramsay: They have probably gone home; and so they shall remain, I am very pleased at that.

I have alluded to some of the natural resources we have—the mining, agriculture, forest industry and tourism—but our greatest resource is our people. The people of Timiskaming are industrious and self-reliant. Northerners are survivors and, I might add, they are extremely intelligent. I think that explains why they voted for me on May 2

Concerning the 49 per cent who did not vote for me, we are trying to locate them to set them straight and show them the error of their ways. I think we can do that. All kidding aside, the reason I was elected is the people of Timiskaming wanted change because they were tired of the 42 years of neglect the party that sits across the way has shown towards the north. We are tired of the colonial mentality this government has had towards the north.

In the campaign I heard the expression "misery and hate" used. I was disgusted to hear that. It makes me angry when I hear that sort of thing

because I know that when it comes to the resources of the north, the party across the way has been the party of pillage and rape. That is going to have to stop.

I wish it was parliamentary behaviour to cross the floor, pick up some of the ministers who are responsible for the north by their lapels, sit them on the desk and talk to them eye to eye about the main problems in the north.

Mr. Philip: They are not here.

Mr. Ramsay: They are not here today. I guess that is because maybe they do not care.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: They are scared of you.

Mr. Ramsay: I am glad they are frightened. I would tell them about the truck after truck and the train after train that go down the tracks and the roads of the north with lumber and ore, and the truck after truck and train after train that come back empty. That is the story of the north. It always goes one way and what we have left is a hole. We have a hole in the bush where the lumber was extracted and a hole in the ground where the ore was extracted. Nothing has been put back. That is the tragedy of the north.

It is not just a place to be exploited. I am sick and tried of seeing the wealth of the north create the affluence of the south. That has to stop. That is why the guys across the chamber are going out next Tuesday.

During the campaign I spoke of some of the problems that prevent northerners from getting a fair share of the economic pie in this province. Part of the problem is that we are constantly shipping out those raw products. Not only do we ship out the raw resources, but when we do that we also export our jobs. That is part of the problem. I addressed those problems. Not only did I talk about the problems, I also proposed some solutions.

I talked about solutions we had in hand today because we possess the tools today to change some of those things. I would like to talk about a couple of those tools in a minute, Ontario Hydro and the Ontario Northland Railway. This is not something we have to take over, something we have to change. We own those tools. We can use them today and quickly change the way the north and the south coexist.

What we have had is a government that is lazy. It has relied on the wonderful social welfare programs and safety nets we have put into this province and country. It is using them to run an economy instead of being creative and creating real jobs in the north. We do not want to be a welfare state. That is what is going to have to change.

Using the tools of the ONR and Ontario Hydro, we can make those changes to allow us to grow, to be competitive and to allow secondary industry to develop in the north.

If a businessman could land a product into southern Ontario from Timiskaming as cheaply as he could from somewhere in the Golden Horseshoe, we would encourage secondary industry to come to the north and we would have real jobs. We would do better subsidizing the ONR than subsidizing the people of Timiskaming through welfare and unemployment insurance.

Historically, the disadvantage of geography has always penalized our progress and development. Even our primary industries are hurt by the freight rates our own railway charges. It is cheaper now to ship iron ore pellets from Labrador City to Sept-Iles and then to Hamilton to the Dofasco plant than it is to freight them down by rail from Temagami. That is going to have to stop. We are using our own tools against ourselves. We need to create the mechanisms to overcome this handicap of geography.

Ontario Hydro is another example. For instance, the Adams mine and the Sherman mine, the iron ore mines in my riding, run most of their equipment on hydroelectricity. However, we charge exorbitant costs for that power. When we raise Hydro rates by 9.6 per cent, as we did last year, that raises the combined Hydro bill of these two mines by \$1 million. We are using our own tools to penalize ourselves. It is not right.

Why is this power so expensive? Twenty-five miles north of the Sherman mine in Temagami we have a dam in Latchford that could be harnessed and supply all the power for the mine and Latchford too. The town could benefit and make a profit. It is this lack of rationalization that adds to the cost of everything we do in the north and makes it a less desirable place to develop. That has to change.

For years upon years the treasure buried in our rocks has been removed and nothing has been put back. We have had millions and millions of dollars of gold, silver and iron ore taken away from the north. What do we have to show for it? As I said before, a big hole in the ground. What this does is give northerners a sense of emptiness. They have a sense there is nothing left. We must stop this exploitation because we have to stop the boom and bust cycles that wreak havoc with our towns in the north. It must stop.

We have an answer on this side of the House; we have the Ontario tomorrow fund. This is specifically designed for northern Ontario. We

are going to put away a little money today for tomorrow when our resources run out so we can develop secondary industry in the north. We have to plan for tomorrow.

I do not think living in the north should be a penalty. I do not think we should be treated as second-class citizens because we live there and carry out the jobs of extracting the resources this province badly needs.

However, this is exactly the case when it comes to health care. For years New Democrats have been fighting for a bit of equality in the health care system. My colleague the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) proposed last year that the Ontario health insurance plan cover medically necessary travel to the southern parts of this province so that a resident of the north might have more equal access to health care resources. As my leader has always said, "If we can have one price for beer, why not for health care?" There is certainly inequity here, and we have to eliminate that.

Even when this House votes in favour of the principle, where is the plan? We do not have action. During the campaign we got a halfhearted promise to bring this in, but only with respect to supplying medically necessary travel to hospitals when we also need it to specialists. That is a big share of the medically necessary travel northerners require.

We have lost confidence in the government of this House and the people of the province have lost confidence in this government.

I enjoyed the election of 1985. It was truly a David versus Goliath fight, a small-time, nearly bankrupt farmer from Belle Vallée that I am versus the Tory incumbent and the visiting hit men from the other side here who came into my riding, and also the \$9.2 million worth of promises with which certainly I could not have competed.

4:30 p.m.

I must admit the best line of the campaign came from the Liberal candidate in our riding. About halfway through the campaign he added up all the promises so far, and at that time there were only \$5 million or \$6 million. He divided it up among the number of voters and it came to \$500 a piece. He said, "I will take mine in cash."

I thought that was rather clever and I said, "Me, too." It would have been a nice way to fund the campaign.

Mr. Warner: Where are the cheques?

Mr. Ramsay: Yes, let us get the cheques.

I was quite flattered during the campaign that not one, not two, not three, not four, but five cabinet ministers came to pay a visit to my riding of Timiskaming. It made me glad inside. It tickled the cockles of my heart to see the cabinet ministers come. Even the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) paid a visit to my riding. One of those trips was fondly referred to as the "Pope's visit." On this one it was charged that yours truly, this poor farmer from Belle Vallée, would take over the resources of the north and squander everything. Shameful things were said.

Another honourable member came and visited the riding. I should not mention his name; he was a family relative. "Uncle Leo's trip" is how they referred to it. He actually threatened that if the people of Timiskaming put in an opposition member —those words really echo now—he would not work with that member. He would not co-operate with him. This was quite shocking to me and obviously to the electorate at large, for they decided to do that very thing. However, these days are over we are sure.

I do not hold any grudges against these people. We are all going to be making the same salary now. These fellows have probably forgotten how to drive their own cars. We will all be sitting at the back of a Toronto Transit Commission subway or streetcar—huddled in the back, with our tuques on in the winter and talking as one hoser to another.

I noticed that my legislative assistant kept changing that word to "loser," thinking I was not spelling it right. I meant "hoser." She is not familiar yet with what a hoser is, not being from the Great White North as I am. "Loser" is probably also appropriate here. But we poor hosers could be in the back—Leo, Alan, Mike and myself—and we can talk about the problems of the north.

I can think of a new name. Mr. Speaker, I know you are aware of the rat pack in Ottawa. I would have a name for this club of travelling minstrels on the TTC in the wintertime. We could be called the "eh team." I do not mean as in capital A but as in "Good day, eh." "Good day eh," we could say on the TTC.

In closing–I know the Speaker will be disappointed that I am closing, but a guy cannot keep on like this for ever; this is too good to go on for ever–the throne speech we heard last week is a mockery. For 42 years the people of my riding have been hearing very similar promises. We have been seeing inaction. We have suffered neglect for too long, and we are tired of those empty promises. We are tired of shattered dreams and we want to change. We want action now. For the Tories it has all come too late, I am

afraid. That is why next week we are going to put this government to rest.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: As the member for York East I am delighted to have this opportunity to address myself to a most imaginative and progressive speech from the throne. It has numerous elements that respond to the needs of all Ontarians, particularly the working people of this province. In my remarks I will focus on those items which most directly relate to my own portfolio, the Ministry of Labour.

First, let me reflect on my experiences as Minister of Labour-

Mr. Kerrio: How about the trust companies?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: No. We understand the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) will be the minister in charge of rent control. All of us are looking forward to that day and to the great new progressive policies he will initiate. Even the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay) is happy to be part of that joyful union that will see this member become minister in charge of rent control.

On May 17 it was my privilege to take the oath of office as Minister of Labour for the second time in seven years. Some expressed surprise when I said, as I have said on many occasions, that of all the portfolios in government, none for me at least is more challenging. There is no portfolio that provides greater opportunities for achievement than Labour does at this critical juncture in our province's history.

Why do I say this? This ministry has long been regarded by some as one of the junior portfolios of government. Why do I believe it has become one of the most vital cogs in the machinery of public administration in Ontario? Let us look first at this province in the national and the international context.

We have a population and a work force about the size of Sweden's. Our industrial and commercial base drives the national economy and it accounts for some 40 per cent of Canada's gross national product. The resources we command are truly awesome. Ontario has the country's largest enterprises, communication systems and markets. In geographic scope we are a vast land, rich in natural resources.

We have an educational system that can be matched by few other jurisdictions, and there is the product of that system, a talented, skilled and highly motivated work force. Yet we face enormous challenges, infinitely greater in my view than those of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

In those days prosperity was taken for granted and the prospects for growth appeared limitless.

What has changed? Nothing less than the entire shape of the international marketplace and our domestic production processes in relationship to that marketplace.

A decade ago our competitors were the Americans, the Europeans and, increasingly, the Japanese. Against this competition we were protected by relatively high tariff barriers. Now the newly industrialized countries—Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Brazil and, yes, soon India, China and others—compete in an international marketplace which was previously assumed to be the natural and exclusive preserve of western industrialized nations. The competition now occurs in the context of lower and progressively falling tariff barriers.

Nor can we continue to cling to the myth that we have some superior claim to the new technologies. Technological growth knows no geographical or national boundaries. Moreover, the multinational corporations which develop and apply those new technologies are infinitely flexible when it comes to choosing where to locate their enterprises. Their choices are quite literally global. Without intelligent application of new technologies, from the microchip to the laser beam, we are in danger of falling tragically behind.

At the same time, the problems of implementation and adaptation are enormously complex. Jobs will change dramatically in work content and skill requirements, in occupational niches, in geographical distribution, in the growing and declining sectors alike. Few now contest the proposition that the new technological revolution will have an enormous impact on the labour market.

Some argue that the new technologies have so altered the face of our industry that there must be a fundamental shift and abandonment of our traditional resource industries and the manufacturing complex associated with them towards the new high-tech, flexible production enterprises. It is true that some of our older industries as now structured and resourced may have the appearance of obsolescence. However, it is surely wrong to say they should be abandoned and even more wrong to say it is too late to reindustrialize.

Certainly, we must embrace the new growth industries, but we must also rebuild and build upon our traditional economic roots in agriculture, the resource sector and in manufacturing. We must concentrate on job retention in these sectors of the economy which are or can be made competitive in areas where traditionally we have done well. At the same time, we must continue to

pursue job creation opportunities in the new and emerging industries.

In all of this we should be prepared to innovate in the rebuilding process through worker involvement, community participation and selective government assistance.

4:40 p.m.

How does this all relate to my ministry's mandate? It means two fundamental things to me.

First, if we are to continue to compete and prosper, we must be prepared to be as smart, as tough, as lean and as hardworking as the best of our competitors and equally as vigorous and imaginative in the introduction of new technology.

Second, in our drive for excellence we must understand the interaction between social justice and fairness on the one hand and the need to remain economically competitive on the other. As a just society, we must realize it is neither fair nor feasible to pursue competitiveness to the neglect of all other goals.

We must accept that a competitive economy that is not humane is not worth having, that a humane working environment can indeed contribute to competitiveness, that safe and healthy work places are more efficient work places, that discrimination in employment is not only morally offensive but also just plain bad economics and that stability in industrial relations not only contributes to social harmony but also improves economic performance.

In so many ways the humane and the efficient are mutually reinforcing. We cannot ignore the hard fact that difficult choices and tradeoffs often need to be made between longer-term economic goals and shorter-term social objectives. In periods of transition some sacrifices may be required, but over the long term the competing economic and social objectives must be reconciled eventually so that the stable blend of equity and efficiency which Ontarians wish and deserve can be achieved.

This is a fundamental challenge and one which my ministry, I believe, is uniquely positioned to address. In fact, the ministry has been moving forward to fulfil that mandate for a number of years. As the external environment has changed, as the harsh new realities of the marketplace have forced both business and labour to seek alternatives to older confrontational methods of addressing labour-market problems, so the ministry has changed both in legislative and programmatic ways to facilitate change.

Let me take a moment to highlight some of the major achievements of the recent past, not only to review the record but also to describe the base upon which future progress can be built.

First, we have recognized that orderly progress within the labour market cannot be achieved without recognizing the legitimacy of the trade union movement as a vital and respected economic partner. As our European and Japanese competitors have long realized, it takes strong unions as well as strong, sensitive and imaginative employers to make the tough decisions needed to adjust to changing market conditions. Hence our own commitment to an orderly and fair legislative base for collective bargaining.

We have had a decade of initiatives, beginning in 1975 with the comprehensive overhaul of the Labour Relations Act. Since then we have continued to review and refine the statute in response to emerging problems and changing conditions. On many fronts Ontario has been the leader among Canadian jurisdictions in protecting and promoting collective bargaining rights.

I think it is worth taking a moment to reflect upon the major improvements that have been made to the Labour Relations Act in the past decade.

The 1975 amendments represented a major advance in the evolution of collective bargaining legislation in Ontario and in this country. They were designed to contribute to the reduction of industrial conflict, to safeguard the right to organize and to enhance a trade union's accountability to its members. New dispute resolution mechanisms were introduced, the certification procedure was streamlined and the remedial authority of the board was expanded. Refinements were also made with respect to the duty of fair representation imposed upon the trade union movement.

The next major amendment occurred in 1977 with the introduction of province-wide bargaining in the industrial, commercial and institutional sector of the construction industry. That provincial bargaining structure, as developed in close consultation with both labour and management, has contributed, I submit, to stability in the Ontario construction industry. This is particularly evident when one compares the experience of other jurisdictions in construction industry bargaining in recent years.

Grievance arbitration is a fundamental component of our collective bargaining system. In 1979, when I recognized that prolonged delays in the resolution of grievances could threaten the quality of relations in the work place and

complicate the settlement of collective bargaining disputes, an expedited arbitration procedure with grievance mediation was introduced and in the ensuing years has gained increasing acceptance among both employers and trade unions.

In 1983 the government acted to enhance union security by entitling trade unions to require employers to deduct regular union dues from the wages of bargaining unit employees. This amendment removed a major obstacle to the resolution of many first-collective-agreement disputes. The amendment was based on the belief that it is fair and equitable to require all employees who stand to benefit from trade union representation to contribute to a union's financial support. Colloquially put, there should be no free riders. At the same time, the act was amended to recognize the right of all employees to participate in strike and ratification votes regardless of their membership status.

Finally, in the interest of breaking an impasse in bargaining, employers were offered the right to request a supervised vote on an offer made during the course of negotiations.

The activities of certain security firms during the course of lawful work stoppages prompted the government to introduce legislation in 1983 to control third-party interference in strikes and lockouts. The amendment prohibited professional strikebreaking and strike-related misconduct intended to interfere with the exercise of rights under the Labour Relations Act.

All these changes reflect our acceptance of the legitimate aspirations of a mature and responsible trade union movement at a time when in some jurisdictions—and I say this sincerely—sullen and often ugly confrontation rather than creative co-operation was and has been the order of the day.

That is not to say we were totally preoccupied with the organized sector. Important amendments to the Employment Standards Act, the first provincial legislation with respect to severance pay, the banning of polygraph tests in the work place, progressive improvements to the minimum wage and the addition of coverage with respect to domestics under the Employment Standards Act were all made during this time and reflect our determination to promote the interests and the quality of working life of all employees.

Second, in addressing the relationship between labour and management, we have not put all our eggs only in a legislative basket. Through a wide variety of bodies—the Ontario Labour-Management Study Group, the Ontario Manpower Commission, the Advisory Council on

Occupational Health and Safety and a number of sectoral committees—we have sought to bridge the communications gap in the firm belief that surely there is much more to labour-management relations than the barbed wire of the bargaining table.

Third, even in troubled economic times, we have acknowledged that it is impermissible to say, as a government or as a society, that claims to fairness, nondiscriminatory conduct and social justice ought to be denied or deferred pending economic recovery. Thus, in 1978 a comprehensive Occupational Health and Safety Act was enacted, bringing Ontario into the vanguard of progressive developments in this field. We built that system on the principle that a partnership involving labour, management and government is a prerequisite for progress. This notion of tripartite, interlocking rights and responsibilities should serve as a prototype for future legislative directions in other fields.

4:50 p.m.

In 1981, as many members will remember, a wholesale redesign of our Ontario Human Rights Code was completed. Those far-reaching changes, which reached into the work place and into the place of residence, have provided, I suggest, effective opportunity for redress from discrimination wherever it may occur. The fears of some people, expressed quite vocally at the time, that this would lead to impermissible intrusion by the state into private affairs have just failed to materialize.

Most recently, in 1984, phase 1 of the overhaul of our workers' compensation system was completed. That reform process, which was begun when I was minister and which was carried forward with diligence and patience by my successor, the former member for Sault Ste. Marie, has culminated in a comprehensive reform of the structures and processes of the workers' compensation system, including very significant benefit improvements.

The record then is one of steady progress. We have been responsive to demonstrated need and sensitive to the requirement for balance and fairness, but resistant to the contention that laws encouraging fairness and simple justice in the work place might make Ontario an inhospitable environment for the investment needed to mobilize our resources and provide jobs for our people.

It will come as no surprise to learn there were those in the business community who criticized us for our aggressive approach, just as there were those in the labour community who criticized us for perhaps being too timid. But the record is there and, more important, the fruits of that record: a more tolerant and civilized milieu, a firm platform on which to build the new initiatives necessary to guide us through the next turbulent decade and beyond.

What are the new challenges that lie before us? In the coming hours, days, weeks, months and years we must design and implement a labour policy that will ensure the world of work here in Ontario is both more efficient and more humane.

The items in the throne speech regarding labour matters represent significant steps in meeting that challenge. There are eight major proposals in this area: (1) compensation equity, (2) first-contract arbitration, (3) unjust dismissal protection, (4) benefits for part-time workers, (5) notice and consultation on technological change, (6) right-to-know legislation for toxic substances, (7) part 2 of the workers' compensation reform process and (8) pension reform. If I may, let me elaborate on each of these initiatives in turn.

First, the goal of compensation equity for women is one that must be pursued prudently and realistically but insistently. The government has undertaken to test the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in the Ontario public service and will be seeking input from labour and business as to how the principle could be extended to the private sector. Thus far, the discussion of equal value has not always been characterized by the careful and professional analysis which it has received in the United States and elsewhere.

The proposed labour-management-government employment equity commission should have equal value as its first agenda item. At the same time, and let us be quite frank, we need to move more aggressively in the affirmative action front. In the long run, only success in this area will break down the barriers to equal access to all kinds of work for women and to reduce occupational segregation. This may be the single most effective way of promoting the equal pay concept; but to succeed, affirmative action programs need more teeth.

The purely voluntary approach adopted over the past decade has simply failed to generate sufficient private sector commitment. I believe an effective mechanism for creating greater employment opportunities for women as well as for visible minorities, native peoples and disabled people would be for the government to adopt a policy of preference for those contractors and recipients of public funds who have or who are committed to implement effective affirmative action programs.

Such a policy would create a powerful incentive for change and would allow individual businesses to design their own programs so they would be best suited to their particular circumstances.

Mr. McClellan: This does not sound like Miller's Ontario. What happened to Miller's Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I do not want to suggest that I do not want to listen to the honourable member, but I have tried that in the past and I have not always liked what he suggested or what he wanted to talk about; so he will not mind if I ignore him for a minute or two.

Mr. Breaugh: It is going to get even worse.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: The member is a lovely young man, but I think I will just ignore him for a minute.

Mr. McClellan: It seems to me you should have a certain humility—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Second, the fundamental right to collective bargaining may be undermined if the achievement of a first agreement is frustrated by improper bargaining tactics. It seems to me vitally important to facilitate the settlement of first agreements to permit new bargaining relationships to mature and take hold. The government is therefore proposing in the throne speech a procedure to enable first-agreement arbitration to be sought when the normal processes of negotiation, conciliation and mediation have failed.

Third, workers who are not represented by a trade union must now rely on the costly and lengthy procedures of the courts to contest unjust dismissal. There is no rational basis for distinguishing between the rights of the organized and unorganized sectors in this area. The speech from the throne includes a provision for an expeditious and inexpensive process for employees to challenge wrongful termination of employment.

Fourth, economic change has spurred the growth of part-time work. Part-time workers frequently do not have access to benefit plans available for full-time workers in the same work place. It is surely a matter of simple fairness to extend the opportunity to participate in employment benefits on a pro rata basis to all employees whose period of service demonstrates substantial attachment to an enterprise. Appropriate amendments to the Employment Standards Act will achieve this goal.

Mr. McClellan: No kidding.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I do not want the member to think I am ignoring him. I am just trying to pretend he is not there.

Fifth, while technological change is essential to our competitive survival, its introduction often breeds anxiety and resistance among workers quite justifiably uncertain about their future. The inevitable and desirable introduction of new technologies would surely be promoted and enhanced by giving workers and their unions advance notice of technological change and by establishing procedures for the development of participative adjustment programs. Amendments to the Labour Relations Act and to the Employment Standards Act are therefore proposed to provide for notice of proposed technological changes, with measures for dealing with resulting employment adjustment problems.

Sixth, a high priority must be given to protecting the health and safety of the work force. Later this week I will be making a statement on a number of immediate initiatives. I believe there are further steps that can be taken to enhance protection against the hazards of toxic substances.

One important reform would be to require employers to identify toxic substances in use in the work place and to alert workers to their potential health effects. At present, this obligation extends only to suppliers and manufacturers of new substances. I believe the obligation should be extended to all industrial users, and it should be made clear that the disclosure should include the ingredients, the common generic names, the composition and the properties of the agents as well as their known or suspected health effects, if any.

I also think there is great merit in focusing our enforcement efforts through the establishment of a designated substances enforcement unit as recommended by the royal commission on asbestos, an initiative that is already well advanced within the ministry.

Mr. McClellan: What year was that?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Even the member was approaching maturity at that time. It will occur one day; it may take him a little longer than the rest of us, but he will get there one day.

While these and other health and safety enhancement measures are important, it is necessary for all to recognize the limitations on the role of government. In a vast and complex industrial environment, with hundreds of thousands of work places, no amount of government monitoring and enforcement, however stringent

or draconian, can substitute for the vigilance of an informed work force operating in concert with responsible and committed employers.

5 p.m.

Seventh, the momentum of our reform of the Workers' Compensation Act will be accelerated with the early completion of the review of the remaining features of the compensation system, an equitable formula for compensating permanent disabilities, a fair and rational means for periodically adjusting pensions, the introduction of an effective experience rating system and the establishment of reinstatement rights for injured workers.

Eighth, it is important that we move forward to provide greater retirement security for all workers. Pension plans constitute the single most important element in most benefit packages, so ensuring fairness and equity in access to these plans is an important element of any reform program.

Ontario, through its Treasurer and its former Premier, has played a leading role in promoting federal-provincial consensus on pension reform, addressing such issues as vesting, portability, minimum employer contributions and the extension of coverage to part-time workers.

In addition, the issue of sex differentiation in pension benefits needs to be dealt with both in its own right and with respect to its general implications for the insurance industry as a whole. The pension field is an enormously complicated one with colossal pools of capital at stake, but we cannot let the magnitude of the problem daunt us. In this as in other areas, we propose substantive reforms to meet real needs.

This eight-point program, this agenda for progress, is a formidable one. It addresses in an ambitious, but, I submit, a realistic way, the major challenges that lie before us.

In the coming session, I intend to press for action on all these items on an urgent basis. They are not proposals born out of a frantic rush to acquire or hold on to power; they are the result of a careful and deliberate review of the challenges facing us and of the options for meeting those challenges.

I am enough of a pragmatist to know that honourable compromise is part of the political process and, in the right circumstances, probably one of its most salutary aspects. But above all, the public deserves rational analysis of realistic options followed by expeditious implementation.

Mr. McClellan: Expeditious.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: No; it is the rational analysis that should trouble the member more than that.

I believe the program outlined in the speech from the throne fulfils that test. Above all, we must be true to our convictions. The party to which I belong believes in reform, but not in the repudiation of the proven traditions of the past. We believe in change, but not in abrupt, disorienting dislocation, which destroys the continuity of progress. Finally, we believe in coherence, not in a patchwork quilt of disconnected programs. What we need to do now is to enhance, not disrupt, a fundamentally sound labour market system, a dynamic and changing system that now requires, as it always will, intelligent and compassionate adaptation to meet new needs and new realities.

Mr. Van Horne: I must observe that the member for York East (Mr. Elgie) was Minister of Labour at a time when I was the Labour critic for our party, and by and large we got along not too badly. I rather enjoyed his comments, although I was struggling with some of them towards the end, as were my colleagues on the left.

I wish to begin these few remarks by offering my condolences to those Ontarians who lost family and property in the tornadoes of May 31 of this year. I attended the aftermath of a similar happening in Lambton county with my colleagues the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp), the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) and the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), our leader, a couple of years ago and, as the saying goes, "You have to see it to believe it."

As the communities and families try to rebuild their lives, we must all pitch in. I am proud that the people in London are sending their money and assistance to the tornado victims. Radio station CFPL was part of a province-wide fund-raising effort yesterday and I offer CFPL a special thanks for more than \$11,000 raised in just a few short hours through the efforts of my fellow Londoners.

I want to thank my fellow Londoners, particularly London North residents, for allowing me to represent them once again in this 33rd Parliament of Ontario. As I say that, I am mindful of the need we all have as honourable members to carry on the work of this House and the traditions of those who have worked so hard in earlier parliaments to represent the needs of the people of Ontario.

I enjoyed the comments of the member for Timiskaming, who seems to be a bright and witty chap, quite willing to speak his mind on his own behalf and that of his constituents. I would add, as I look behind at my new Liberal colleagues, many of whom are here at this moment, and note the excellent qualifications that have brought them here, I can say with all assurance we will provide excellent service to our constituents and the province.

While I am in such a benevolent mood, I think on occasion we in the Legislature forget we have a small debt of gratitude to those servants in and outside the chamber. I am referring to the clerks, to the Hansard staff and the sundry others who help make our day-to-day work more bearable. It is appropriate to say thank you to them as we begin this session and to note, too, that some of these servants unfortunately move on.

Earlier in the day, we paid respects to the late Duke MacTavish who worked so faithfully as legal counsel for the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments. I say in all sincerity, I enjoyed my association with Mr. MacTavish. A group of us had the opportunity to visit the United States last February to investigate further the whole process of notice and comment and delegated legislation. Of the various expeditions and trips I have taken as a member for more than eight years, that was the most informative and well-organized venture in which I have partaken. He was responsible for its success.

For a moment I would like to refer to May 2, which we all found to be a very interesting day. Aside from changing the direction of politics in Ontario, the election results have created a tremendous interest in what is going on here at Queen's Park. Many people who were heretofore complacent are now asking questions. This is very obvious from what we see on TV and in the papers and hear on the radio, and in the questions put to us by our constituents when we return to our ridings. So the interest is there.

We must now ask, as we reflect on May 2, why did that happen? I would submit one of the reasons for those results was that the people of Ontario felt a growing sense of remoteness with the old Conservative government. They felt left out. I think they wanted a change that would involve them, so they said, "Do not take us for granted." My leader put it in a slightly different way in his eloquent no-confidence motion speech last Friday. He reminded us we are here to serve the people of Ontario. Let us keep that in mind. 5:10 p.m.

I would like to dwell for a brief moment on the expanded role of back-benchers and ordinary

members, as it were, which has been bandied about in the previous two or three weeks, weeks during which our party and the New Democrats were discussing the roles we would have to play.

Those of us who have been sitting in opposition applaud this move, and I can assure the leader of the third party, who made very clear and specific reference to this in his speech on Friday, that we will be mindful and respectful of the rights and obligations of all members.

I am delighted to hear that the role-for members, at least-is to be expanded and that they will be given much more attention in the various areas in which they work. Of course, we are thinking of committee involvement and of the things we have to do back in our constituency offices. I think, too, of such things as the private members' hours that have been traditionally held on Thursday afternoons.

If I could spend just a moment on the private members' hour—the new people in this House are not very familiar with that—I would point out that if one does choose to take part in that Thursday afternoon situation, one's chances of success are a lot more reasonable if one presents a resolution than if one presents a bill. It would seem—

Mr. Martel: The member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman) stood every time he was told to stand, like a trained seal.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Van Horne: I am trying to ignore the interjections so I can get on and provide time for the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), who follows me and is most anxious to speak before six o'clock. Perhaps the member for Sudbury East can be mindful of that too.

The point I am trying to make is that we note with some chagrin that private members' bills from the opposition side are generally either defeated or blocked. It is of great concern to me that when a member puts his mind to a theme he or she has thought about, which has perhaps led him or her to make the decision to run, to try to be elected and to come here, he or she comes in with all honesty and sincerity, gets the chance to present the bill and then finds out that, in spite of all the good intentions and all the thought behind it, the darn thing gets shot down simply because it does not fit the mindset of the government of the time.

Let me give members a couple of examples. Both the member for London Centre, now our leader, and I presented bills back in the mid-1970s on the theme of disclosing information regarding the financial costs and economic impact of government programs. Specifically, I

introduced Bill 69 with almost that same title. It was defeated.

Another was the Fiscal Plan Act, introduced in 1979. The purpose of that bill was to require that a five-year fiscal plan be submitted by the Treasurer of Ontario to the Legislative Assembly when the budget is presented each year. The bill provided for the establishment of a committee of the assembly, to be known as the standing committee on government finances and economy, to study and make recommendations concerning a fiscal plan.

I could go on with other bills that were presented and that I felt very strongly about. For example, Bill 103, which I introduced in 1982, was presented specifically to urge or direct the government—and it does not like taking direction—to take action to avoid such situations as we had at Nakina. We are all familiar with the disaster that happened at Nakina. This private bill was called An Act to Ensure the Safety of Prescribed Burns in Ontario. What has happened to that, of course, is absolutely nothing. It and the others were blocked or defeated.

Another bill I presented was the Human Tissue Gift Amendment Act. This bill was debated, and what happened to it? It was defeated. I have reintroduced the bill with minor amendments to make it legitimate to reintroduce it in this chamber.

However, I would like to quote from a little article that appears in today's Sun, page 24. The heading of the article is, "Heart Boy in Good Spirits." It says, "Canada's youngest surviving heart transplant recipient is 'awake, aware and in good spirits' at London's University Hospital."

This young lad's name is Enrico Del Piccolo. He is 14 years old and he is from Italy. I had the pleasure of meeting him and his mother in February. He arrived in Canada in late January and has been awaiting an organ. He suffered from a very severe congenital problem and his heart needed replacement. The transplant was made yesterday and, fortunately, he has survived the initial surgery. The organ he received came from a young boy from Michigan.

The point I would make is that there are many deaths in Ontario and in Canada wherein people, young or old, may very well have wanted to leave an organ or organs to someone in need. Yet the mechanics for that are rather limited at this time in Ontario. The whole purpose of this private legislation is to enlarge the availability of organs—to enlarge the bank, if you will—so that they might be available to people in need. We have the technical skill, we have the trained

people, and we have medications now that we did not have 10 years ago. It is high time we moved in this area.

There is another point for my dwelling on this. I refer back to my comment on the enlarged role of private members. There are many people in this chamber—there have been in the past and I know there are a number around me right now—who have good ideas they would like to see implemented. At least they might be brought in for more discussion than we get in private members' hour on Thursday afternoons. I hope sincerely that all sides will agree, as we get on with this 33rd Parliament, that we can listen more closely to the thoughts and ideas of private members and their bills or resolutions.

I do not want to spend any more time on that. I could spend the whole afternoon on this theme and point out other pieces of private members' legislation that have been equally deserving of comment.

At any rate, I am pleased to have raised that point. I would like now to move on to one or two other thoughts before I yield the floor. There is another area we all have to be mindful of, aside from the opportunity to present one's thoughts in here. That is our obligation to speak out on behalf of the ridings we represent. I submit that members in opposition over the years have had a difficult time getting their messages through to the government. I personally have had a difficult time on more than one occasion in this regard.

I would like to stress the need for more sensitivity in government and its obligation to listen to members as they come in with the problems of their ridings. I could point to one or two areas where we have had a difficult time, but will refer particularly to London North.

Pottersburg Creek runs through my riding. It touches London South for not more than half a mile, but mainly the creek runs through London North. For more than a year I have been trying to convince the various ministries, particularly the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Health, that we have a problem there and that it requires attention. Only when the election fever caught up with us in late February and March was there any indication that people in the ministries or on the government side might get rolling and might give the matter fuller investigation.

5:20 p.m.

Of course, once we got into the election, there were all kinds of visits between the Conservative candidates and the government offices. Unfortunately, the issue of cleaning up the polychlorinated biphenyls in Pottersburg Creek became a

political issue. That is a sad comment. Surely, when members have problems in their ridings and bring them to government's attention, they should get fair and equal treatment. I submit that is another reason some of the folks in Ontario did not choose to vote in the old traditional Conservative way they had done for 42 years. They were saying that sense of remoteness was bothering them. They were saying, "Do not take me for granted."

Let me give another example of what could be construed as a rather unfair or uneven hand reflected by government. I am referring now to a letter addressed to me in the last week of May by the city of London's mayor. In part, the letter reads, "I am enclosing comparative statistics with respect to residential and educational taxes as well as provincial grants."

I am skipping through and picking out the highlights. "It is of interest to note that the city's overall residential taxes, both in total and separately, are lower than any other municipality with a population in excess of 120,000. This achievement is particularly noteworthy in that London continues to offer a high level of service to the residents."

It goes on to say, "It is disturbing to note those municipalities with the highest per household property taxes generally enjoy the highest increases in provincial grants."

Later it says: "It appears that effective and efficient government works to the disadvantage of London when it comes to sharing in provincial transfer payments. The numbers show that the more you spend, the more you get."

We watch ourselves in our community and we get less. That seems to be grossly unfair, and yet when we bring that to the attention of the government, we find a deaf ear.

As members we have an obligation to speak out on behalf of our communities when we hear the throne speech, to be concerned how the intent reflected in the speech might reflect on our community. As I listened to the throne speech, I was concerned about another area, the two magnificent post-secondary institutions. I did not find what I thought was an adequate commitment to the problem of the underfunding of colleges and universities. The institutions I am referring to are the University of Western Ontario, one of the finest universities in Canada, and Fanshawe College, a fine community college located not only in London but in my riding.

If we find things lacking in the throne speech that reflect on our community, we are obliged to take note of it and to speak out. When one is an opposition member, if one has been assigned a critic's job, one has the duty and obligation to note things that are of concern in the area one is responsible for. It is no secret that I have been the critic for the Ministry of Northern Affairs for the past couple of years, primarily to accommodate the situation whereby we had one member from the north whose responsibility and experience was in the fiscal area. So I have had the pleasure of being critic for Northern Affairs.

When I listened to the throne speech, I tried to make sure I was picking out the references to the north, to make sure the government's blueprint for action properly addressed itself to the needs of the north. I submit that I and my new colleague the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) are very concerned about what it did not say about the needs of the north. The member for Cochrane North can speak much more eloquently than I about the needs of unemployed youth in northern Ontario.

The percentages of unemployment among young people in many parts of northern Ontario far exceed anything we see in southern Ontario. There are all kinds of things the throne speech did not say about the north. I could go on and talk about the need for improved transportation or native peoples' needs, and women's issues particularly, that have not been addressed in this throne speech. However, I am sure all these items will be more properly addressed in due course by my colleague the member for Cochrane North.

Again, I point out that when I do not hear things like that in the throne speech, I feel obliged to rise and draw that to everyone's attention.

I would like to make one or two other comments about what I think are the reasons for people voting as they did on May 2 and for having some concern with this throne speech. When I say "people" I am talking now in general terms. I do not mean just the members of this Legislative Assembly, the 125 people in here, but people who are now a little more attuned to what is going on and who are starting to ask these questions.

I am finding more people saying to me, "It is small wonder there was a change. Why did the government ever get into Suncor? What is happening at Hydro? What is this I am hearing about boards, agencies and commissions?" We have not talked a lot about that in the House. Most of the questions in here address themselves to the issues of the day, the big sex appeal things that light up the press gallery and make the

headlines. We do not generally find headlines about boards, agencies and commissions here in Ontario, even though we had an interesting question asked about appointments today.

When one takes a look at this list—and this is a 1982 list; I am sure it has grown because these things invariably do, they never shrink—of boards, agencies and commissions, more than 15 pages listing almost 700 of them in Ontario, one has to wonder who is running the show and just how much this is costing us.

When I got hold of this list a couple of years ago, one of my assistants—that sounds as if I have a whole lot of them; I have one here and one in London—took some time and did a little digging and started adding up the costs of these various boards, agencies and commissions. I cannot tell members how many millions of dollars we are talking about simply because it fluctuates and grows. However, I am telling the ladies and gentlemen of this chamber that we have a tiger by the tail when we start to take a long, hard look at it.

I would submit to members there is a growing awareness of this in the public mind and some members' minds. Again, we do not see the government addressing itself to any kind of restricting or cutting back in that area and so we ask questions.

I could go on and talk about the cost of advertising. I had a figure from a press clipping of April 1984. I am sure Ontario's ad tab of \$27.2 million would be changed upwardly if we looked at more recent figures.

As a former teacher and administrator, I am concerned, as I conclude these remarks, that whereas the government found it necessary to allude to province-wide testing and scare the souls out of all the administrators and teachers across this province a year ago, it has fallen strangely silent on that theme now. It is small wonder because it is my view that the Ministry of Education has lost its direction. The rudder has fallen off the good ship Lollipop and I do not think they really know where they are going.

5:30 p.m.

I had a conversation two weeks ago with a couple of old friends of mine who work out in regional offices, which used to be where the inspectors resided and from which the direction came to the school boards. Now there is sort of a nether land. They do not know where they are going or what they are doing. They are supposed to be consultants and advisers, but half the time they are not sure what they are consulting on or

what they are advising-what they are doing, in other words.

I am concerned about the direction in which education is going. I could use more specific examples about Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions curriculum guidelines, P-1, J-1 and so on, but let me simply say I think education needs a very long, hard look. We do not find any reference to that in this throne speech.

I was going to have a little fun with the bicentennial bash, which was really the leadup to the election that never happened, but I will leave that for one of my colleagues. If they want to have a few chuckles, let them get the members opposite going about the bicentennial bash.

Mr. Kerrio: We are going to have another one this year.

Mr. Van Horne: Are we? My colleague the member for Niagara Falls liked it so much he wants another one.

The throne speech is supposed to be a blueprint for governing. I think the throne speech we were subjected to a week ago was not really a true philosophy of the Progressive Conservative Party or an honest indication of where it might lead us. Rather, it was a speech of convenience. Many of the statements there could have been found in our policy statements. It could be described as a restatement of Liberal philosophy and platform.

Let me conclude by saying our leader has said the important thing now for Ontario is to chart the future. I sincerely believe only the Liberal Party can do this. Therefore, I am pleased to support my leader's no-confidence motion.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am pleased to participate in this rather historic occasion. After all, how often does one get to speak in the Legislature of Ontario on the occasion of the end of 42 years of Tory rule? It is a time of real potential and renewal, and I am grateful the voters in my riding saw fit to send me back for another term.

First, let me wish you well, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome all new members of the House on this occasion. Very soon, I suspect, they will understand that this place is a little bit of a loony bin on occasion, but it can have some gratifying moments as well. Also, I would like to wish a pleasant and happy readjustment to those who were not sent back to this Legislature.

Let me say as kindly as I possibly can under the circumstances that the election results in Ontario show there is still some justice in the democratic process. When a party lets arrogance—that is the only word I can effectively use—guide it, when it

bases its actions on arrogance rather than the consensus and the needs of the people of Ontario, it is going to run into trouble. I must confess I was almost beginning to despair of that.

I have heard comments from many of my predecessors and even a few of the members still in the House who were here before 1975 about the pre-1975 era; indeed, I talked to my own predecessor, who held the riding of Hamilton East or Wentworth East for some 20 years before I came in. I have heard how tough it was when they were few in number to deal with majority Conservative governments, how little success they had in scheduling any legislation, getting any resources or access to them, or literally having any say in the real governing and law-making processes. In effect, they had to be pretty good constituency workers to get any attention at all.

I came here in 1975. We certainly charted a lot of new ground, but not having been subjected to it myself prior to 1975, I guess I did not really know what the members had been up against. I certainly do know that from 1975 to 1981 this government was not able to walk all over the members in this House. They had to listen to us. While we could not initiate or succeed in legislation of our own, we certainly had some input into the legislation which came before the House.

I can recall some of the debates on safety and health legislation and a few of the things that were referred to by the member for York East just a few minutes ago. When I reflect back now on the years 1975 to 1981, and probably the partisan nature of this House prevents anything else from being the case, we probably lost some things which we might have gained because there was a constant battle to upstage one another. Nobody could deny that was going on.

I can tell members that 1981 was a revelation to me. What happened in this chamber was as different as night and day from what went before in my experience in the House. The realities of 1981 made me clearly understand the comments which were made by some of my predecessors and certainly outlined a difference in the operation of this House.

What became obvious—and I know the government members do not like it or maybe cannot even accept it as yet—is that what we had for that minority period was really a six-year hold on the kind of arrogance we saw after 1981. Nothing more clearly highlighted that contempt for the opposition than two incidents.

I can recall the past Premier of the House–I am talking about the Honourable William Davis–responding to me in either late April or the first week of May 1981 over coke oven emission controls for the workers at Stelco. At that point we had been trying for five years to establish coke oven emission controls in Ontario. They had been in place for almost five years in the United States and we still did not have them. We did not get them until 1983, and then we got a watered-down version that allows for averaging. They are still not as good as those that they have in the US.

I can recall being sent a letter from Hamilton from the safety and health committee of Local 1005. In that letter they pointed out to me that two years earlier the Premier of the province had responded to the requests which were being made yearly asking when they could expect coke oven emission controls. In May 1979 they had already been in place in the US for three years. When the chairman of the safety and health committee, John Lennie, in Local 1005 said: "Hey, I found this old letter in the file. Can you use it?" I said, "I sure as blazes can." They sent it over here.

On that day my colleagues put me at the top of the question list. I got up and I simply asked the Premier when we were going to have—I did not go to the then Minister of Labour, which was the usual course—coke oven emission controls in Ontario like those that had been in place for five years already in the US.

I will never forget his answer until the day I leave this House. He got up and did what we jokingly called his "Johnny Carson routine." He said to us: "It takes time. We have got to clear it with the company, we have got to clear it with the union, we have got to clear it with the safety and health people at McMaster and we have got to make sure our legal beagles tell us that we can enforce the legislation if we pass it." Then he sat down.

We purposely did not heckle on that particular day. I got up on a supplementary and I said, "Mr. Premier, two years ago you told the safety and health committee of Local 1005 that you hoped legislation would be in place by the end of the year." I would have to go back to Hansard, but I think my comment was, "What is your word worth?" I was being provocative, and deliberately so, because we had been through this for a number of years.

I will never forget that when the Premier got up shaking his finger at me like this, as he did a year or two later at the leader of my party, he was very angry. Gone was the Mr. Nice Guy and Johnny

Carson routine when the Premier of the province said, "I want the member for Hamilton East to understand he is not speaking for those coke oven workers, we are because the voters just elected a majority of us"—I think he said, "70 of us and only 22 of you"—and he sat down.

5:40 p.m.

Almost an identical answer with respect to a plant closure was given to my leader when he was told, "You are not speaking for those workers"—it was a United Auto Workers' plant, as I recall it—"we are because more of them are voting for us than are voting for you."

What that clearly said to me was that we had the ultimate in arrogance in this House. The issue did not count; it was the kind of a majority that sat on the other side of the House. If I ever needed anything to drive it home to me—and that was just months after the 1981 election—that was the incident in this House that did.

I will not forget either the joke this government made of the attempts to achieve a modest measure of pension reform. I heard the Minister of Labour refer to it again today. I found it interesting to go back and read some of the debate and the actual resolution I moved in this House in November 1979. I do not think my resolution did it, but there was a buildup of concern about pension reform at that time in Ontario.

I recall moving a resolution in this House that, when I look back at it now, was so terribly meek and mild. What I asked for in that resolution in private members' hour in this House was reform of the private pension plans, which cover fewer than half the workers in Ontario, by simply allowing for five-year vesting-my God, how could I have been so conservative at the time?-protection in the case of bankruptcies and plant closures; an insurance type of scheme; portability, so that workers who in many cases are going to be moving five and six times in the course of a lifetime in changing jobs can carry their pensions with them and end up with some private plan; and a central investment agency.

That resolution produced a good debate in this House–I think it was November 14 or November 15, 1979–and almost everybody in the House in all three parties agreed with what was in it. It was not long afterwards that we established a select committee on pensions to look at reform of pensions in Ontario. I served on it, as did some other members who are still in this House.

It might be some indication of the thinking that was around when one stops to think that at those public hearings even the representatives of the private insurance industry—I can recall them very

well, and we had them in from a number of organizations—said to us: "There are things wrong; reforms are needed in the private pensions in Ontario, and surely they must come about. But do not let the government do anything. We intend to do it. We recognize it. If anything, you have helped us by setting up the select committee and pointing out just how inadequate the private plans are. You do not need to act, because we are going to do it."

Those hearings were in 1980, I guess. The fact that the two New Democratic Party members, my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) and I, had to issue a minority report to the report we finally got out of that committee gives members some idea of how the other members—and I can say it of both parties in that committee—were listening to the representatives of the vested interests. I can tell members who was influenced by them. We had to file a minority report.

Shortly after we finished our hearings, or almost at the same time, we had the reality of 1981. What happened? The report was filed. We have not seen any of those very minor reforms in private pension plans in Ontario, even those reforms on which there was agreement. We have not seen any action. That report is gathering dust somewhere. Where is the action on something about which we seemed to have had almost unanimous agreement in this House? And one wonders why there is cynicism on this side of the House. The voters finally understood what some of us understood in here, that it was numbers that counted, not the issues.

Let me give one or two more examples; there are dozens I could use. Time and again we raised the issue of newly organized workers—I heard all the fine words from the Minister of Labour here today—and their attempt to achieve a first contract. Our arguments were rejected out of hand. I can recall being told, even by the member for York East that it would not work, it was not feasible. Now all of a sudden, great, it is their next program up. This is something we have argued about for years, not just for a few months.

I recall the mockery that was made of the preamble to the Labour Relations Act. I think it is important. I have done this a number of times before, but I feel it should be put on the record once again. What is the preamble to the Labour Relations Act that this Conservative government was responsible for establishing? The preamble says, "it is in the public interest of the province of Ontario to further harmonious relations between employers and employees by encouraging the

practice and procedure of collective bargaining between employers and trade unions as the freely designated representatives of employees."

Some of the stuff I was hearing a little bit earlier here was not far removed from barnyard carping. If there ever was an issue that we highlighted over the past few years, that was the issue, the deliberate denial of workers' rights in cases such as Fleck Manufacturing–I am going back a bit, but I will bring the members up to date–Mini-Skool, Irwin Toy, Eaton's–that is a recent one–Radio Shack, Artistic Woodwork, Fotomat. It continues today with the office workers at Timken in St. Thomas.

There is a particularly nasty case—I wish the minister were in the House—a strike that started just three days ago in North York. It is about as nasty a case as I have ever seen of total and absolute denial of the right of workers to negotiate a free collective agreement. There are about 100 workers involved. It is a firm called Polytarp Products Ltd.—Compass Plastics Ltd. in North York.

One hundred workers were faced with going out on strike on Monday of this week to try to achieve a first agreement. It was a bitter fight for a first agreement. It is still going on.

Current legislation allows employers to produce as their final offer a collective agreement that workers cannot possibly accept, thereby forcing or producing a strike over something as fundamental as union recognition.

I am not going to read all of the letter I received; it was delivered by hand to my office today by the union involved. However, I am going to give the members a couple of examples of why these workers feel they had to go out on strike. In spite of extensive efforts, they have not been able to get close to it because the company has clearly decided, as in so many of the cases I have mentioned, that the workers are not going to have that right to free collective bargaining.

The owner of this firm, Mr. Chitel, insists the decision on each worker's wages and benefits is to be at the sole and unquestioned discretion of the company. Medical benefits are to be provided on the same basis.

Let me read the actual language they want to put in place that the workers could either settle with or be gone. One of the things he wants to do is set up a five- or six-tier wage schedule for the workers in the plant. This is what he is insisting on being in that first contract:

"Nothing in this agreement prevents the company from increasing the coverage of the aforesaid benefits, or introducing or increasing the coverage of other health and welfare benefits at the sole and unquestioned discretion of the company. This discretion may, from time to time, be exercised in favour of one or more employees."

If one wanted to undermine any effort or any organization that workers have—I could read a few more sections of that—what more could one want? I am simply saying that kind of coverage is farcical. We could see it in the Eaton's situation where the workers not only faced absolute rejection of any real bargaining of the issue but also were forced to settle for what even the union will admit was a totally substandard contract on the basis that they were all up against a time frame whereby the company could have used the new employees it had hired—scabs is the popular word—to replace the striking employees and vote out the certification and vote down the union.

What kind of protection did they ever have in that case? The situation is absolutely intolerable. We have been through more nasty fights, the kind of nasty fights I think the minister was referring to, over this issue than over almost any other issue. I hope we will have redress through first-contract legislation, a move incidentally that obviously even the Conservatives have finally agreed could assist in bringing about an end to a great injustice in workers' rights in Ontario.

I want to make it clear, not only to the government but to my Liberal colleagues as well, that other essential reforms are necessary in fairness to workers if they are to have the right that is clearly set out in the Employment Standards Act preamble and in the Labour Relations Act in Ontario. There are arguments that we simply have to make, and that we have made but which have been unsuccessful until this time.

5:50 p.m.

One reform is that if workers in Ontario are to have the right to organize, to be certified and to form a union, then the date of application has to be the terminal date. Anybody can see what is happening now, particularly where we have had some of these nasty cases; we should understand that they post the notice and give the employers 13 or 14 days. That is the period when all of a sudden the companies get busy and the petitions go out and the campaign is launched against the union. They should not be there for anything other than to verify that application, and the size and composition of the unit, when the workers have signed that card and paid their money. If the terminal date were the date of application, that

move alone would eliminate an awful lot of the problems we have in Ontario.

The other thing—and we heard all the nice things about speeding up arbitration—is that while we made some gains in that field, we did not set the fee schedule for arbitrators. The federation, the unions and those who are organizing tell me the government is literally eliminating smaller and weaker unions from any possibility of having the justice that is supposed to be provided by the arbitration procedure simply because they can no longer afford it. Once again we have had the price of arbitrators go through the bloody roof and it is just an impossibility for workers to get justice with respect to organizing.

The regulation of arbitrators and the application date being the terminal date are simply measures that must be brought up in conjunction with first-contract legislation if we are going to see any basic fairness for workers in Ontario.

Another example of the contempt for workers, and I see it as that, that I have been trying to outline is the case that some of us got a little bit exercised about on the floor of this House this afternoon. I refer to the 56 employees of the Hamilton and Simcoe unit of the Canadian Medical Laboratories. This particular doctor owns a number of labs around Ontario. They tried to organize one lab in Cambridge and lost by one vote. The workers there consider the vote lost because of fear of what would happen to them, as was happening to the workers who had the guts or were able to organize with respect to Simcoe and Hamilton.

Because they got caught in the time frames of this government's six and five legislation, the workers in these labs were behind the salary rates of workers. Incidentally, \$6.50 is the common rate today, and they are trained professionals. The Inflation Restraint Board—and this is something that does not happen very often—said, "Yes, you have an exceptional case and you are entitled to a nine per cent increase for the period from the end of June 1982 to July 1983," and it ordered that.

Going back to the debate over the restraint legislation, I recall one of the things we said—and we were opposing the legislation; I will make that very clear—was that if you are going to set up an Inflation Restraint Board it has to have some authority. However, this government would not give it any. What authority does it have? It has to have the courts enforce the action because it cannot do it itself.

When we go over the case I am recalling once again, it really is frustrating and we wonder why. The workers have waited three years for justice and know they might be waiting another year. It is just ludicrous. The original order of the board came—and there was a lot of fighting leading up to it, trying to get a settlement—on March 15, 1984, and then a reaffirmation in effect on August 7, 1984.

I hope I am not talking out of turn when I say the chairman at the time, who was appointed by this government—I do not think he is there any longer—told me he had never had a more frustrating case that was obviously a deliberate attempt to sabotage the union than the one that was going on at Canadian Medical Laboratories.

What does this board order say? I will not go into the first two parts. It mentions the previous order, and the company obviously has been totally disregarding the law. It says:

"The board hereby orders the administrator to implement a nine per cent increase in compensation rates for the subject employees, effective July 1, 1982, in accordance with the board's decision of July 18, 1984. The administrator is further reminded that the other relevant provisions of section 12 of the act are to apply. The board directs the administrator to file with the board by November 5, 1984, an acknowledgement of compliance with this order."

In other words, even the government's board had arrived at the point where it was saying: "Hey, you are fooling around with this thing. We will give you a date to tell us you have complied." At that time the owner of the lab came up with another neat little dodge. He filed an order in court, saying in effect the board did not have the right to make this kind of judgement. As it turns out now, we have just found out, he does not even have to file his statement of evidence for a year. I went to some of the lawyers and I talked to some of the board people, and I learned that one can wait a year or a year and a half to get this heard in court.

In any event, the point I was making today was that seven months after the company pulled this dodge—and the workers have already been waiting for years now, I remind members—the owner of the labs to this day, unless he did it this afternoon, has not filed his statement of evidence. The lawyers tell me there are no grounds, that it will be thrown out as soon as it dealt with. We may wait a year or even longer before he files it and before a decision is given.

How can one justify arguing against the anger and cynicism of those employees over the utter and almost abject rejection of fairness in the system after they have gone through this kind of process? This government has known about it for more than a year because we have been raising it and hammering away at those very points. I know there are processes to go through, but in answer to to the challenge thrown out at the time by the Minister of Labour, I damned well would not have let it wait this long if I had been in his position. What has happened to these workers was totally uncalled for.

Another tragedy is the whole issue of plant closures; it is one that has hurt workers of the province tremendously. I do not care how or from where one views this issue. I understand some of the arguments that were being made by the minister regarding the new technology we are facing and the necessity of dealing with it. But the one constant in plant closures, usually as a result of a company's rationalization of production or closing down of a unit, is that the workers lose.

The companies always argue they are taking the action so they will be meaner and leaner and better able to compete in today's world. They usually do end up in a meaner and leaner and more competitive position. But the workers lose and end up spending their savings. If they are older workers such as Connie Bath, or Consolidated Bathurst, as I have said in this House before, half of them still are without jobs. Workers facing that prospect are those at Inglis in my community, the Allen industry people. I could go on; not just in Hamilton but across the province, they are the losers.

We have attempted to get some kind of justification procedure or some kind of community fund to allow something like Canadian Porcelain, which is at least a possibility, or some project where the employees could get involved in a viable unit. All our calls to the government have fallen on deaf ears. One hell of a lot of workers in Ontario have been hurt. They just do not seem to have the input they should have.

I have only a couple of minutes left and I will not be able to finish all the remarks I wanted to make, but I want to end on a more parochial note. There are concerns in my riding that have not seen very fast action on the part of this government. I agree with the comment by the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) that we have to beef up services for the elderly. My riding has an older population and if there is something they want it is to be able to stay in and maintain their

homes and not be moved into the institutionalized sector.

We do not have affordable housing. This government has been sadly remiss in that area. We have a vacancy rate of one per cent or less in Hamilton now; that has not only social implications but employment implications as well. I called today to find the latest figures in Hamilton housing. That agency is not the only one with a waiting list. It reported 577 families, 100 seniors and 120 disabled. "But wait," they said. "We have new figures. We will be sending them to you tomorrow, updating the total to 844." Somewhere they are adding another 50 or 60 people to the waiting list. My constituency office worker tells me we have had 30 to 40 cases of housing problems in my constituency office since the election.

We have not had action fast enough, whether it be on the solid waste reduction unit, the cleaning up of the Windermere basin or the cleaning up of the dump sites in Hamilton. The east end medical facility is still a bit of a joke, although we think we are finally getting close to it. That was promised by this government in response to a speech by Ian Deans away back in 1975. We are still arguing it through the processes in the city of Hamilton.

One should understand clearly why the frustration has finally boiled over. It was not just by the members in this House; I think the public finally got the message as well that something was not going right. I do not know a better word to use than the one I started out with, and that is the "arrogance" of this government.

I hope they have learned a lesson. I hope we also have learned that we cannot allow that kind of thing to happen again. I hope my Liberal colleagues have learned that one of the things that will be absolutely necessary if we are to have any measure of co-operation in this House is that there must be some kind of understanding of the rights and privileges of members and an ability to feed into the system so they can have some effect on problems concerning their constituents.

I hope that message gets through. The present government is paying for those last years. It might not have paid so much if we had not had at least the minimal example of the minority years from 1975 to 1981. The problem is, the government obviously did not learn a damned thing during that time.

I thank members for the opportunity to speak in this debate.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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No 6

Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 33rd Parliament Tuesday, June 11, 1985 **Evening Sitting**

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, June 11, 1985

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: I am pleased to join this debate on the throne speech. As is traditional in such speeches, I would like to congratulate all new members who were elected on May 2 on both sides of the House. I am sure they will find that while the adjustment to becoming members of the Legislature, becoming comfortable with the House, with committee and with all the other things we do can be difficult, there are more than enough people around here who are willing to be helpful and to lend a hand in a nonpartisan way to try to make everyone feel comfortable here and to do the job as effectively as possible.

I want to congratulate all new members and, of course, I want to make special mention of the nine new members who were elected to our caucus in what proved to be a very difficult election, retaining in some cases seats that had been held by my party before the election and winning new seats in other cases.

We are very pleased at the infusion of new blood, enthusiasm and ideas that comes with these members. I am sure the veteran members of the two other caucuses would agree that a bit of a renewal goes on in this place every four or five years when we go through an election. New people come in who perhaps bring with them a breath of fresh air, people who have in one way or another been closely involved in their communities and in any number of endeavours and who can bring with them a freshness that, in turn, refreshes the rest of us who have been here for a while. Lord knows, at times, in the cut and thrust of debate, that can be sorely needed.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate you on your election as the presiding officer of this House. I know from your past experience and from the way you have conducted yourself in all your duties in the four and a half years I have been here that the House will indeed be well served.

I wish I could tell you that on each and every occasion each and every member of this House will serve you well. I guess we can strive towards that, but, as you know from observing the chamber for many years, there will be times when I am sure you will pull your hair out and wonder what the heck you are doing on the throne. Nonetheless, sir, our best wishes and our congratulations go with you.

By the same token, I would like to join with some other members who spoke last week, as a matter of fact, about our former Speaker, the member for Peterborough (Mr. Turner). I guess what I just said really is an experience that the member went through for a number of years. It is not always easy to steer this House and to get us all moving in the direction in which we should be going but perhaps do not feel we should be going.

The point is that I believe he served the Legislature and the people of this province extremely well and, as he returns to his duties as a regular member of caucus, I know that the thoughts, the respect and the gratitude of all of us are with him, for the service he gave this House is immense.

I would also like to thank the electors, the people of Brantford, who saw fit to send me back for a second term here. I am obviously delighted that I will have the opportunity to serve my constituency again.

The last four years were not particularly easy ones in my constituency, in particular when the recession hit in the latter part of 1981 and through 1982. I suspect there are few communities that were as hard hit in the initial stages of that recession as was my riding of Brantford.

Brantford is an older industrial town in the context of the province. We continue to be dependent in large part on the farm equipment manufacturing industry, which you, Mr. Speaker, will know has been through some very difficult times with respect to market and the challenges and problems that have faced our farmers in the last number of years. Two major companies in my riding manufacture harvesters and combines, which in this day and age cost in the neighbourhood of \$120,000 to \$150,000, and one can well imagine there are few farmers in North America who are in a position readily to

lay out that kind of cash for a new piece of equipment. I believe the rule on the farms has been to repair and to maintain and to try to keep the old equipment running. That has had a very serious effect on my riding.

We are fortunate, however, that the recession ended and my community and others across the province started to bounce back. Many industries in my riding are now booming—the smaller companies, many of which are related to auto parts manufacturing and others in the textile industry. I could go on and on. It is very gratifying to have the smaller companies in my constituency now working two and three shifts. For all the problems we continue to have with Massey Ferguson Industries Ltd. and White Farm Manufacturing Canada Ltd., we in Brantford now have a very strong and recovering economy.

When I think back to the first term I served in this House I think of a couple of achievements that I had the opportunity to be a part of. One is the redevelopment of our downtown core. A phenomenon quite common to the smaller cities across Ontario was the deterioration of our urban centres as the shopping centres proliferated and as people's tastes changed and they wanted the convenience of shopping in enclosed malls. In the city of Brantford, this put a tremendous strain on our downtown area.

Stores were closing. People saw little reason to go into the heart of the city any more. It was much easier to go out to the suburban malls, and this had been going on for about 25 years. But with the co-operation of the former Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in particular, the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett), and the former Treasurer, currently the government House leader and Minister of Education (Mr. Grossman), we were able with a developer and other interests to put together a project about which, frankly, I am very excited. The construction on a project that will see the core of my city revitalized is now under way with the creation of some 600 nonindustrial jobs for people who can take positions in the hospitality and the retail industries and so on. We in Brant county are all very excited about that development.

We have been through a very difficult election. It is a tribute to every member of my party who has retaken a seat or has taken a new seat on the government benches, that he or she was able to do so in the face of a very difficult tide. I came here in 1981 with 22 new members. We now have nine new members coming in at a time when we lost a number of seats.

Mr. Haggerty: I see you are not an overnight guest.

Mr. Gillies: Sure. It is a truism in politics that the tide goes out and the tide comes in. Clearly we are going to be working as a team to inject the ideas, the energy and the direction that I believe the Progressive Conservative Party can muster in short order. Mr. Speaker, I want to suggest to you that in the coming months, the tide is going to come back in for the Progressive Conservative Party in a big way and we will be working unceasingly in that direction.

8:10 p.m.

We have here a team dedicated to the prospect that the Progressive Conservative Party is an instrument of great good in this province, and has been for many years, and we will be working to ensure that the good this party has brought Ontario can continue in the future. That is something to which we all dedicate ourselves.

The throne speech His Honour brought into the House last Tuesday encompasses a package of reforms and proposals, the continuation of existing policies and the development of new ones that can be of great benefit to Ontario.

Mr. Wildman: Are you kidding?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You just woke everybody up.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: This amuses a couple of my friends in the third party.

I want to focus particularly on job creation, especially on the youth employment and training initiatives that will flow from this speech from the throne. My first involvement in the area of youth employment was in my first posting as parliamentary assistant to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development.

Mr. Wildman: Ken Dryden may be a good goaltender, but you are not a good stickhandler.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: Ken Dryden is doing an excellent job on behalf of this province and I am sure that in the months to come he will continue to do a very good job for Ontario.

I remember in 1981 when we first moved towards pulling together the various youth employment and training initiatives of this government, the budget for that envelope was about \$55 million. With the initiatives announced in the throne speech last week, we will see growth in this area to well over \$200 million. Our commitment to youth employment has quadrupled in four years. That is a recognition on the part of our government of what has become one of the prime policy concerns and has to be one of the prime policy initiatives of any

government in the industrial west in this day and age.

When the recession hit, the burden of unemployment, the burden of layoffs and job loss was felt disproportionately by our young people. Even as the unemployment rate for our population generally rose to unprecedented heights, it was disproportionately felt by the young. As we recover and enter an era of job creation and rebuilding, in many respects the young will be among the last to benefit from that recovery.

When companies that have laid off veteran workers are in a position economically to rehire—and I need look no further than my own riding—they naturally and properly rehire from their seniority list. Among the last to benefit from a recovery of a particular industry are the young people who need to be brought in in the first instance and who are in many cases looking for a first opportunity to participate in the job market.

Through our various programs, both summer programs and those that operate year-round aimed at nonstudents, we are now offering an unprecedented number of jobs and training and counselling opportunities. We are spending more dollars and creating more opportunities than at any time in our history.

The establishment of the Ministry of Skills Development is a very important step in the co-ordination and rationalization of this area. In my statement earlier today, I spoke at some length on this. I would like to—

Mr. Kerrio: Is this the same speech as this afternoon?

Hon. Mr. Gillies: Does the member want to hear it again? I have it here. This is an important step in pulling it together.

I would like to talk briefly about some of the history of this part of the government's policy development and what brought us to the establishment of the new ministry. We had any number of youth employment and training initiatives and the members will be familiar with many of them.

There were training and retraining programs and apprenticeship programs offered through the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. There were youth employment initiatives run through the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development under the youth secretariat. We had other youth employment programs under Ontario Youth Opportunities that were administered by the Treasurer and the youth commission. We had the body of government responsible for labour market forecasting that had overriding responsibility for all job programs of the government, the

Ontario Manpower Commission, reporting through the Ministry of Labour.

In short, there were 12 different ministries and agencies of government involved in one way or another in youth employment and training. I believe the will to do good in this area existed. I believe the commitment in dollars, jobs and training opportunities was there, but what was missing was the ability to pull together, rationalize and co-ordinate these programs so we could target a number of groups and a number of initiatives that I believe needed targeting.

There were members—and I readily admit there were members on both sides of the House—who said for a number of years that an initiative of this sort should be taken. I remember first taking it to a policy conference called by former Premier Davis in the winter of 1982-83, suggesting to him that what we really needed was a ministry of youth or skills development or some single body that could eliminate all of the red tape and the spaghetti-like congestion of programs, initiatives, funds and so on.

Mr. McClellan: Where did all that spaghetti come from?

Hon. Mr. Gillies: It just developed. From my experience some three years ago at the youth secretariat, I can tell members the process we had to go through in developing a new program and getting all the necessary approvals for a new program was truly staggering.

We also knew the pattern of unemployment among young people was shifting and that new initiatives were going to be needed.

The traditional area of involvement for government in youth employment has been in the summer student programs. We are certainly maintaining and even increasing our involvement in that area. But what became very apparent during the recession was that the highest rate of unemployment among young people was no longer during the summer months and it was no longer among the students and the graduates. The group on whom we had to focus our attention and what resources we could muster was the young people who had left the school system with lower levels of training, lower levels of skills and lower levels of education.

The unemployment rate among graduates from our community colleges and universities is roughly in line with the unemployment rate for the population overall. But I think it should be of some alarm to every member of this House that the unemployment rate among young people who leave school in grade 9 or grade 10 skirts 30 per cent. It became very apparent, and it was

recognized in our budget in 1984, that we had to start focusing our resources and our thoughts on that group, the group that was bearing the brunt of this unemployment.

We saw the former Treasurer bring in the package of year-round programs we are now offering and that are making very significant

progress in this area.

I was pleased, as I am sure all members were, to see the other day that the unemployment figures for the month of May over the month of April show a reduction in youth unemployment of 2.1 per cent. In fact, in May 1985, the unemployment rate among young people under the age of 24 was 12.9 per cent. That is down from May 1984, when that same group had an unemployment rate of 16.5 per cent.

I am not satisfied. I do not think any of us should be satisfied or complacent with doubledigit unemployment among our young people, but it is most encouraging to see the trend is downwards and that new opportunities and initiatives are being taken up by our young

people.

The announcement in the throne speech of a further \$100-million commitment is a considerable commitment, a real one and one that should be taken up very quickly.

Mr. Kerrio: Very quickly.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: Before Tuesday, for instance. The youth employment envelope alone—and I am not talking now about the skills initiatives or the training initiatives that we have, but just the job creation programs for young people—is now taking about \$175 million of our budget. I have not finalized the breakdown of the \$100 million announced in the throne speech as between training and apprenticeship initiatives and job creation, but we will be breaking it down fairly, so our commitment to our youth can be considerably increased.

8:20 p.m.

I want to talk for a moment or two about training programs because I believe in the last year we have entered an era of greater cooperation and greater harmonization of our programming at the provincial level with those initiatives offered by the government of Canada.

After my appointment in February as Minister without Portfolio for Youth, one of the first things I did was to call the federal Minister of Employment and Immigration, the Honourable Flora MacDonald, and suggest to her that the time had come when we could finally start co-ordinating and harmonizing our programs for summer employment and year-round employ-

ment. The time was also right for us to start looking at the percentage of the training initiatives across Canada that were being run in Ontario and at how we might cut down on some of the duplication and overlap in that area.

I would say that the co-operation thus far has been excellent. In fact, I was in Ottawa last night to meet the federal minister. We are planning several initiatives jointly and co-operatively that will benefit thousands of young people in this province this summer. There is a recognition on the part of the federal government in its labour market strategy that we have to start pulling together in a meaningful way the training and apprenticeship opportunities for our young people right across Canada.

Mr. Wildman: Remember, you said the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) was shopping in Buffalo. He is not. He is here.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: I was just hoping he might be able to keep the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) quiet, but that might be asking a bit much.

When I talk about co-operation between governments, I do not believe we will necessarily and readily agree on every issue. There have been negotiations throughout the spring of this year in which my predecessors involved in this area and I have spoken out very strongly. I can tell members that the former Minister of Labour, Mr. Ramsay, was heavily involved in this, and my predecessor as Minister of Skills Development, the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves), was too.

We are stating the position in Ottawa that the percentage of federal government funds that is allocated to Ontario for training initiatives should be allocated on the basis of our percentage of the population and our percentage of Canada's unemployment. This has not always been the case in the past. I would suggest to honourable members that Ontario has been historically shortchanged in this area by the federal Liberal government, which this country had the good sense to turf out last September.

I believe there is a recognition on the part of the new minister. There is certainly a recognition on the part of the federal minister, Ms. MacDonald, and myself that Ontario has to be treated fairly in the allocation of these funds. Our meeting last night was very fruitful in this area.

I would suggest to the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley), who always agrees with me on everything—except perhaps on certain nocturnal opportunities at the rowing club in St.

Catharines, but we will not get into that—that we are now engaged in a meaningful dialogue with the federal government.

I have talked to my officials and to other people who have worked in this area, and they have told me the way it used to be. The former federal government's idea of co-operation and harmonization was to consult the provincial governments when it wanted something and to drop what it wanted on the provincial governments when it was not interested in hearing the provincial input.

That has changed in a meaningful and significant way. When the new labour market strategy programs being offered by the government of Canada are unveiled in this province, members will find that our province is a full and willing partner and participant in those programs and that there will be a greater degree of co-operation in and co-ordination of our operations than ever before.

This, I believe, is very important. Surveys have been taken which show that, while the dollars are there at both levels of government and while the programs and opportunities are there, there is confusion among the general public, among the people who use our services and among employers about the proliferation of federal and provincial youth employment and training programs.

To better serve the people of Ontario, I believe we have to bring this together into several broad streams of programs and get away from the multiplicity of individual programs with their varying sets of criteria, their varying sets of eligibility, the differing subsidies and wage levels that are available and so on.

We have started that work in the Ministry of Skills Development. I have directed my officials to start a program of rationalization that I believe will leave the whole area much more understandable and much more accessible to everyone

concerned.

Mr. Bradley: The road to Damascus is getting crowded. It is an expressway now.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: As I hear the voices raised in agreement by the honourable members opposite, especially the member for St. Catharines, who, as I said earlier, always agrees with me on everything, I believe it very important that this work continue. I am a realist. We in this House are all aware of the political situation and of some of the possible changes that will occur in the coming weeks, but regardless of whatever party-

Mr. McClellan: What does the minister mean by weeks? Days!

Hon. Mr. Gillies: I am being an optimist. Let the honourable member give me that luxury, please.

I believe it very important, whatever party should form the government of this province. that this work continue. The establishment of one ministry and one co-ordinated approach in this area is vital to the service we are providing. We have pulled together-the agencies and the people with the expertise-to provide direction and to provide opportunities for our young people.

We have a network of youth employment counselling centres now operating across this province providing counselling and job opportunities to young people throughout Ontario. We have 45 centres in small and large urban settings and we are now starting to open small, one- and two-person counselling operations in smaller rural communities. The success rate in these youth employment centres is tremendous.

As a government, we made the decision that we should not drop them sort of artificially from Queen's Park, fund them 100 per cent, fill them with bureaucrats and hope they would somehow take root in the community. We have worked in co-operation with local agencies, and our youth employment centres have the support and involvement of social agencies, labour unions, chambers of commerce, community colleges and boards of education right across the province.

As I look across the floor, I see so many members who have these centres operating in their communities. I was recently in London where the centre operating on Dundas Street has a tremendous success rate in placing disadvan-

taged young people.

I see the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) is here. That was one of the first centres we opened in the province. Again, the job is being done at a storefront, street level, because in many cases we are dealing with young people who have been turned off by large institutions and have no interest in dealing with large institutions. They want to be able to go into a centre where they are going to get the straight goods. They say: "All right, you have these programs and you have these jobs. I am looking for something. What is in it for me?"

There are many community agencies. The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) is here. I know that not so very long ago he and I attended the annual meeting of the John Howard Society in Oshawa. That is one of the social agencies that has shown true leadership in this area.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: Well, of course. I am always fair in this regard. I dare say every minister of this government is fair in this regard. It is a tradition of fairness that we will continue.

The work of these centres and these programs is absolutely vital. The problem we face is that many of the young people whom we are trying to reach have left the education and training system early. The longer a period of unemployment goes for young persons, the more problems they develop. They get frustrated. They start to wonder—

Mr. Haggerty: It has taken you 42 years to come to that conclusion, has it?

8:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: The member for Erie is suggesting that we are born again in this regard. As I said earlier, our commitment in this area has quadrupled in four years. That is not an accident, I would suggest to my honourable friend. That is a clear policy direction and a long-standing policy direction of this government that we are going to increase the opportunities available to our young people.

The longer a period of unemployment goes for young persons, the more problems they can develop. We have social and legal agencies involved because they can lose touch with the requirements of getting into the job market. Some of our youth employment centres are having individual, group and peer counselling sessions to teach them the very basics, things so many of us would take for granted—how to fill out an application form; how to present oneself properly for a job interview; how to go out and find a job; how to find leads; and how to chase down a lead. All these things are being taught in our centres and the success rate is tremendous.

In most of our youth employment centres the success rate of placements is over 70 per cent. We consider a successful placement to be a young person finding a job, or being placed into a job program under one of the governmental programs or choosing to return to the education or training system. Any one of those options is a success as far as we are concerned because we know that every year young people invest in training or education is going to give them that much more opportunity and that much better chance to break into the job market.

There are many initiatives addressing every area of governmental involvement in the throne speech unveiled by His Honour last week, but I believe that one of the most significant and greatest commitments is the increased funding

and opportunity we will be bringing to our youth employment and training programs.

I have seen surveys and public opinion samples that would suggest the people of this province place no other area of government involvement higher on the agenda than providing opportunities, jobs and training for our young people. That is why we have recognized this in the speech from the throne. I hope those and the other initiatives unveiled in that speech will have the support of all members.

In wrapping up, I want to say the new ministry-

Mr. Bradley: The red tie will not get the honourable member a cabinet post.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: I am chaining myself to this desk; I am not leaving.

The new Ministry of Skills Development, whose budget and programming will be enhanced by this speech from the throne, provides a new opportunity for us to co-ordinate and increase our commitment to our young people. I would urge all members to support these initiatives so the new ministry can take on what I believe is one of the prime opportunities we have as a Legislature and as a government to prove our commitment to the next generation.

Mr. Sargent: I welcome this opportunity to speak in the throne debate and to see so many old faces here on this side and a few over there.

Mr. Speaker, you have been a former officemate of mine. You have climbed the heights and are now wearing the tricorn hat. Your service to the people of Perth and to this Legislature has been great and we are very proud of you.

I would like to pay tribute to past Speakers who have been very kind to me, Fred Cass, Jack Stokes, Russell Rowe and the member for Peterborough. Speaking of the member for Peterborough, he once noticed that one member in the front row on the opposite side of the House stood with his left hand in his pocket and there was a document in his right hand. He said, "Mr. Speaker, I have the most important thing in my hand tonight." Mr. Speaker said, "Which hand?"

We have a lot of characters in this House.

An hon. member: The member for Grey-Bruce is the greatest.

Mr. Sargent: Anyway, tonight in the Toronto Sun there is a headline which says, "Ontario Credit Rating Is In Danger."

I think of the story of the bear who went into a bar and ordered a beer. The bartender served him his beer and the bear gave him a \$5 bill. The bartender went back to the boss and said: "Boss,

you should see what I have got. I have a bear who gave me \$5 for a beer. What shall I do?" The boss said: "Give him back a nickel. He will not know the difference."

The bartender went back and gave the bear a nickel. Then he said to the bear, "It is not very damned often we get a bear in here for a beer." The bear said, "No damned wonder at \$4.95 a bottle."

It is no damned wonder that Ontario is in trouble with the goings on of Ontario Hydro. The situation in Ontario is totally out of control. Although we have a 40 per cent surplus of nuclear power, we are now committed to another Darlington plant to cost us possibly \$20 billion.

It is unbelievable that Hydro is running totally out of control. It has to be brought under control. Those members who were on the standing committee on public accounts and those of us in the opposition know we have the answer for that. Our leader is committed to bring it under control.

Just to go back a bit, how did all those things happen? We had a fellow in here at one time named Bob Macaulay. He was a very brilliant lawyer who was a Tory cabinet minister. He decided he would go the nuclear route. He was a brilliant man; I have no hesitation in commending him for his foresight. But as it went down the line, the whole thing became progressively out of control. When he left the job, he became counsel for Hydro. One year he billed us \$157,000 as his fee for Hydro. His brother ran the show for a while, but today Bob Macaulay is chairman of the Ontario Energy Board.

Going along the line, the fact is that these things happen. Bob Macaulay is now in a position where he cannot do anything because Hydro is responsible to no one. That is the scary thing about the whole situation.

8:40 p.m.

We are operating a uranium supply out of Elliot Lake, as everyone knows. We have always had that power. I think one of the best critics we have had of nuclear power shenanigans is the new member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes). She was a tower of strength on the select committee on Ontario Hydro affairs. The member for Niagara Falls and the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) and those members who have sat on the standing committee on public accounts know what has been going on, but we have not had any power.

If I can digress for a while, in 1921 a special committee of the Legislature came to an even stronger conclusion, one that bears a striking

similarity to many of the more recent complaints about Hydro's position of privilege. It said:

"It is beneath the dignity of the Legislature to occupy a position where it is inferior to a commission which the Legislature itself has created. The act regulating the powers of the commission should be amended to restore to the Legislature the right to approve or reject any recommendations which the commission may make, for without that right responsible government will cease to exist."

What has happened? They suddenly went the nuclear route. We knew there were great deposits of uranium at Elliot Lake. The province owned the land; so Stephen Roman made a deal with the powers that be to supply uranium. He had no money; so those fellows over there lent him \$650 million to build a plant on our land, interest-free for 40 years. The interest on that loan is \$1 billion over 40 years. He took that \$650 million and built the plant. He gave us a deadline to sign an agreement, and the Premier forced it through the Legislature on a given date.

That was a shocking document. In all my years in public life I have never seen anything so shocking as what happened. Roman is paying \$7,000 a year in rental to the province for our land to take out the uranium. Then we guaranteed him, no matter what happened, a profit of \$2.5 billion or a minimum profit of \$5 a pound on the uranium we use. Today we are stockpiling \$100 million worth of uranium we'll never use. One of the stages of the contract is up in 1984-85. There is a man who has a contract to guarantee him a \$2.5-billion profit, no matter what happens, on a piece of land for which he is paying \$7,000 in rent.

Is there any doubt in the world why Ontario's credit rating is in danger? There is the 40 per cent nuclear power surplus we have. There is Darlington. Now we owe about \$25 billion. It says in this agreement that the province has the power to raise provincial mining taxes to a level that would wipe out any windfall profits. If \$2.5 billion is not a windfall profit, then I do not know what is.

The price at the minehead for uranium is \$1 a pound. The world price is \$39 a pound. Hydro has been paying \$50 and \$55 a pound all this time for second-grade uranium. Alberta had much superior stuff for \$39. In the meantime, we are stockpiling \$100 million worth of uranium that we will never use.

I asked a question of the then Premier. In view of all this, the federal government, Denison Mines and the provincial government acted in concert to set up a cartel to purchase uranium for Ontario Hydro. I went on to list the ways out of it: that it was our land, the windfall profits tax, the right to refuse grants, export permits for unrefined uranium, all the safeguards we had. Then I asked him why we would not go the route that Westinghouse went in the United States, where they had the same commitment for uranium. Westinghouse went to the courts, won hands down and got out of the deal.

I repeatedly asked the former Premier why he did not try negotiation. He said not to disturb things. I probably asked 40 or 50 questions in the past three or four years, as has the member for Niagara Falls, but I never got an answer. He was a good stickhandler. I like Bill Davis as a man, but he is a good stickhandler.

Mr. McLean: You are a good skater. I remember playing hockey with you.

Mr. Sargent: My skates are getting kind of dull. Darcy McKeough, a former Treasurer, said Ontario Hydro's needs are bankrupting the province. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk made a stronger statement than that. The debt Hydro owes other countries is more than \$9 billion—it is double that of the federal government's foreign loans—with the result that Hydro has to pay its foreign financiers \$1 billion a year in interest.

Hydro has spent more than \$20 billion since 1973 and it is spending about \$2 billion a year to build unnecessary plants. Today I talked about tritium. We are building a plant in the new Darlington deal and a portion is to process tritium for the US market. We are going to spent \$300 million of taxpayers' money to sell this highly explosive tritium to the United States because President Reagan is in trouble with his budget. It would cost \$4 billion to build a plant comparable to this, which is costing us \$300 million, and we are building this plant to send them about four kilograms a year at \$15 million a kilogram.

We are faced with the danger of a nuclear war. Many teenagers around the world, in the United States and Canada, feel they will not live out their lives. President Reagan is running around with a big stick, talking about Star Wars and fighting the next nuclear war in the stratosphere. It would be total suicide for the kids of today.

I say it is wrong that Hydro, not responsible to anyone, can make a decision to spend \$300 million of our money to send explosives like tritium, which makes warheads 1,000 times more explosive because of its chemical makeup, to the United States to save them \$4 billion.

I am not on target, but I want to get across the fact that we are in deep trouble because Hydro is not responsible to any of us here or to the people of Ontario. I could go on, but I am concerned about the fact that our kids may not live out their lives

We have spent fuel rods. We do not know what to do with our garbage. In the United States there are 71 nuclear plants under construction, and the US government has more money invested in those plants than was spent in the Second World War. They are in total limbo. The government will not let them finish these plants until they can find out what they are going to do with their garbage. God bless them for that; that is intelligent.

8:50 p.m.

We are taking our garbage, our spent fuel rods, and putting it in swimming pools. It has to last for 2,000 years in swimming pools. We have all this going on and nobody does a damned thing about it. I am concerned.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Are you opposed to nuclear energy? Is that what you are saying?

Mr. Sargent: That is a tough question to answer.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I thought I just heard you say you were opposed to nuclear energy.

Mr. Sargent: No; within limits. We have to have some control. Does the minister not agree with that?

Mr. Van Horne: He is expressing an honest concern.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I appreciate that it is an honest concern, but if he is opposed to nuclear energy he should put it on the record.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) and the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne) will please refrain.

Mr. Sargent: I know the minister is sincere. It is a hell of a good question and I did not answer it properly. I am in favour of nuclear power within limits, but what is going on is preposterous.

There is this cancerous garbage all through my riding and they are going to close down a lot of that plant now. It is going to have a catastrophic effect on our riding. Thousands of jobs will be lost. The whole economy is going to go down the drain but there is no vision on the part of Ontario Hydro.

Hydro is going to close down a plant in Pickering and one in Bruce. It is going to mothball them. To mothball one of those plants for ever costs \$1 billion. At Three Mile Island they are talking about reopening the plant again, but they will not be allowed do it. At Pickering they are going to mothball a plant. It will cost them \$1 billion to mothball it or leave it there as a cancerous thing for eternity.

The spent fuel rods must be kept at a constant temperature. If they do not keep the temperature constant, there is what is called "a significant event." Many of the veterans here will know the problems they had with significant events. Ontario Hydro has had significant events at Bruce when the cooling system failed and the water became highly radioactive.

I could go on and illustrate this. My colleagues who have been citing these problems could do the same thing. I think Hydro should be brought under the control of the people of Ontario.

In closing, I note that the experts tell us human beings have been around for 800 lifespans. In the first 650 lifespans we lived in caves. There have been some recorded communications only in the past 70 lifespans. We have had the printed page for only the past six. Only in the past two lifespans have we had the electric motor, electric light, the automobile and the radio. During the past lifespan—that is, in our lifetime—we have developed television, penicillin, jet planes, satellites, radar, heart pacers and artificial hearts, nuclear power and the computer. That is a short list.

We have come this far yet we have not learned the right way to live together. McLuhan's global village is a reality, at least in the technical sense. We have come as far as we can go. But we cannot get together to live as safe human beings.

I have run over my time. I want to thank members for the chance to speak on this. I welcome the chance, as our leader has promised, to put this under legislative control. It will be a good day for Ontario.

Ms. Gigantes: It is a pleasure to be able to join this debate as the elected representative of the people of the provincial riding of Ottawa Centre. My friend the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) made kind references to the "new" member. I do not consider myself a new member; I am a recycled member. I wish well to the new representative of the riding I formerly represented, Carleton East, which is another fine Ottawa area riding.

The people of Ottawa Centre in their provincial perspective have not had a representative in this House since last July, almost a year ago, when my illustrious friend and the former member for Ottawa Centre provincial, Michael Cassidy, decided to offer his services to the

people of Ottawa Centre as their federal member. In a surprise decision in the last federal election in September, they took up his offer. It is a great honour to be here now standing in his place and to pay my respects to the work he did on behalf of the people we both have the pleasure to represent.

Mr. Speaker, if you had Michael Cassidy as a provincial representative for 13 years you have grown used to very active representation. The people of Ottawa Centre have sorely missed representation for almost a year. They have had to go to the polls twice in the past six months to try to get somebody to speak for them here. The list of messages they have built up for their representative to deliver is a very long one. Their attitude has grown a bit impatient and their very clear desire is for action.

As their messenger for this session, I will try like a good messenger to relay their feelings in a clear and direct way. I will try to present their case in a way that will convince 100 other members—I know I do not have to convince my own colleagues—and I will try to get the governing party in this province to take action.

I would like to give a brief review of the list of messages. I am going to start with the subject of housing because in Ottawa Centre there is nothing less than a crisis in the housing area, particularly in the area of low- and moderate-rent housing.

We have been losing low- and moderate-rent units in the riding of Ottawa Centre at a rate of hundreds a year and that erosion goes on. They are being eroded by demolitions where they are being replaced by high-rent units or by expensive condominium units. They are being eroded by conversions. Owners of small apartment buildings are still permitted to be convert them to condominiums, and large apartment buildings are being converted to apartment hotels because there are not adequate regulations.

Severances of hundreds of row housing rental units are going on. We do not have an adequate relationship between the committee of adjustment that operates at the municipal level and the official planning powers of the municipality. We are losing hundreds of units a year through renovation of apartment buildings, renovations that are going on outside the existing rent review controls. We need changes in our rent review legislation, we need changes in our landlord-tenant legislation and we need changes in the Planning Act to address these problems.

9 p.m.

I will go into the problem in some detail when it comes to renovations. That is the strongest force operating in Ottawa right now to deprive those in modest rental households of their homes. Landlords are delivering notices to the tenant households saying they require vacant possession for the purpose of major renovations. Under the existing legislation, the landlord can do that only if the renovations are going to be so major that he will require a building permit, which must be accompanied by a plan of the renovations; and these renovations, under the law, should be so major as to create a new unit.

In fact, that is not what is happening. What is happening is that landlords are evicting tenants outside the measure of the law. They are then sanding the floors, patching and painting the walls, putting up a chandelier, fixing the cupboards and jacking up the rents. The provisions that have been proposed in the Thom commission to deal with this problem are not adequate, and I am very hopeful the new government will address this problem in some way that will protect the existing tenant.

The Thom commission has suggested that the new tenant should be paying a rent that is equivalent to the old rent plus the cost of the capital invested in renovations. The problem with this is that the former tenant, whom I like to call the existing tenant, is already gone. He does not have the benefit of his previous home; he does not have a choice about whether he is going to be able to move back into a slightly renovated place. He has had to find a new place because the eviction was illegal. We need to have powers in our rent review legislation that will address this problem and protect the existing tenant.

In Ottawa Centre, we have been losing hundreds of moderately priced rental units per year and at the same time we simply have not been building up a new stock of moderate rentals. It is quite clear that private builders are not prepared to meet the housing needs of low- and moderate-income households, and the excuse we have heard has been that rent review legislation has created the problem we face.

I, among many members of this Legislature, remember very well that back in the mid-1970s rent review was created because the problem was well in place in the early 1970s. The rent review legislation we have, while it is not adequate, has certainly protected the level of rents for hundreds and thousands of households across this province, particularly in the downtown cores of our cities. It has offered some assistance.

The reason it was brought in in the first place was that we already faced a crisis in low- and moderate-rental housing in this province. Let me assure members that the government we had after the election in 1975 would not have brought in rent review legislation had it not felt the force of the electorate's voice in the number of opposition members who were elected to this Legislature and who spoke of the need for action on rent review.

Government inaction has been the major cause of the current level of the housing crisis; it has been the major contributor. We simply have not addressed the problem of how to get new rental housing of a moderate price on the market. In Ottawa, programs such as the Ontario rental construction loan program have not met the need. They have been nothing short of a fiasco. In Ottawa, that program delivered \$7 million in interest-free loans to private developers who were supposed to develop up to 20 per cent of the units they were building as rent-geared-toincome units. In fact, for \$7 million in interestfree loans we got 216 rent-geared-to-income units, and we do not know how long we will have them.

It has been a constant theme of the Conservatives as a government and as candidates in the election that we should get the private market forces, the private developers, back into housing. They are in housing. They are making a mint and they are not providing the kind of housing we need. It is time we started having some government programs that are actually going to work to get people back into housing.

We have not built a stick of public housing in this province since 1978—and I direct that particularly in care of our previous housing minister, the member for Ottawa South, from our area of Ottawa, where he should have been particularly sensitive to the needs that have built up in that community, among others.

We have not had adequate funding for those local groups that are co-op and nonprofit, either private or municipal nonprofit. We have not had funding of the kind that has gone to the private development industry. We have not had that kind of startup funding for those groups and they have proven in Ottawa Centre and in other communities across this province they have a real commitment to providing the kind of housing that people who live in those urban centres need.

A study was undertaken by city council in Ottawa about a year ago. It was done by a private consulting group, Peter Barnard and Associates, and one of the interesting items when I went

through it was to look at what happened with the production of rent-geared-to-income housing units in the city of Ottawa over a time frame. There was a nice graph that gave an indication of the curve of production and the addition to the stock of rent-geared-to-income units starting in the mid 1960s and running through until 1983.

If one drew a line through the graph in 1978, when the member for Ottawa South became housing minister in this province the curve became almost flat. Suddenly, a curve that had been adjusting to community needs, had been building up the stock of rent-geared-to-income housing, became almost flat. It has stayed almost flat between 1978 and 1983.

I call it the Claude Bennett curve and it describes very nicely an extremely painful situation for the people in the community of Ottawa Centre. We need rental housing that people can afford.

Some people profess to be amazed at the demand for assisted housing. I think it is important to remember that our population has undergone some pretty dramatic changes over the last 10 to 15 years. Since 1971, for example, the population of the city of Ottawa has remained almost steady, but the number of households has increased dramatically. That is because the demographic nature of our population is changing, not only in Ottawa Centre but one also sees it quite dramatically in the downtown cores of Ontario cities. There are more single people, there are families that have fewer children and there are more single-parent families. Those are the facts of Ontario life in the 1980s.

9:10 p.m.

Our housing policy simply has not adapted. It does not address those facts. We have had no new public housing; no housing program, for example, for the 10,000 non-elderly single people in the Ottawa-Carleton region who have limited incomes. Single-parent families are struggling in the private market, unable to get assisted housing; and the psychiatrically disabled until today—and I hope it changes as of the moment of our current minister's announcement—but over the last year they have been arbitrarily declared ineligible for assisted housing by the former Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

I do not know how much that shortened the waiting list for assisted housing in Ontario communities, but in a community like Ottawa, which probably has between 1,000 and 2,000 psychiatrically disabled single people looking for housing at any one time, it meant there were that many people who were no longer on any waiting

list for assisted housing and there was absolutely no program to address their needs. That is awful; it has been intolerable and, in my view, it alone is a good enough reason to change the government of Ontario.

I will take a few more moments to address briefly some issues that are related to some of the portfolio responsibilities I have been asked to take on as an opposition member of this Legislature, mainly in the area of the Ministry of the Attorney General and issues that relate to women. I confess to feeling more experienced on the second than on the first, but it may be, as I suspect from the evidence, that it is easier to become an expert at law than it is to effect the changes that women need.

I would like to take this opportunity, too, to mention the person who last played the role of member responsible for the portfolio of the Attorney General in my caucus, and that was the member for Riverdale, Jim Renwick. He was to this caucus a rock, a foundation, and he is deeply missed. I did not weep when I heard he had died, because I knew he had lived almost to the end doing exactly what he wanted to do, which was to represent the people of Riverdale to the best of his ability in this Legislature, and he did it in incredible fashion.

I did read the speeches of tribute that were made in this House after his death and I found myself moved to tears reading them. I would like to thank members on all sides of the House for the expressions of admiration and respect they gave at that time.

I find now, as I try to familiarize myself with an area in which I am not expert and as I read the estimates of the Ministry of the Attorney General in previous years and the words of the then member for Riverdale, that I can hear his voice saying those words. The people of Riverdale riding, the members of this Legislature, the legal profession, the poor, the struggling of this province and in particular the women of this province all received something from him. All were well served by Jim Renwick and all were dignified by his work.

I remember best working with him when the initial round of family law reform was before this Legislature in 1978. We are now into reform of the reform, as he predicted when he pointed out the changes that were going to be required and that are now long overdue. The proposed changes that have been brought to us so recently by the Conservative government are good. They can be better and I hope they will be better in a new government.

We will also be addressing issues related to equal pay for work of equal value, issues that affect women. We will be addressing, I hope, the proration of benefits and security for part-time work. We will be addressing the question of day care—there seems to be a commitment all around—and beginning at least minimally to meet the needs of the 50 per cent of the one-, two- and three-year-old kids in this province whose mothers work. We will be addressing, I hope, the enforcement of maintenance orders and those enforceable orders that concern the violence of one family member against other members of the family.

I hope, too, we will be addressing some of the less fashionable issues that have particular power in the lives of women in this province. Those are the issues relating to adequate income; for example, the level of our family benefits allowance and the dignity that can get crushed in Ontario Housing Corp. rules and regulations. We heard the Attorney General (Mr. Pope) say today there are few pieces of legislation in Ontario that discriminate any more against women. He does not understand how many of the rules and regulations that operate under our income security programs discriminate mightily against women.

This is not the whole list of messages from the people of Ottawa Centre, but I think it is a good start. If we can begin to address those issues in the months and perhaps couple of years that will be in this session, we will have begun a good piece of work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to join in the debate.

Mr. Jackson: It is a pleasure for me, in my first address to this assembly, to participate in the debate on the speech from the throne in this, the first session of the 33rd Parliament of Ontario.

In taking my seat in this House as the representative of the fine people of Burlington South, I am taking the place of a capable and very committed former member, Mr. George Kerr. We know George well. He spoke and worked for the people of Burlington South and for the Halton West riding since he was first elected to this assembly in 1963.

In his more than 20 years of service to the province, Mr. Kerr served as the Minister of Energy and Resources Management, the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Colleges and Universities and as Solicitor General of Ontario, to name but a few of the responsible positions he has held during his distinguished political career. In the performance in all of his

duties as a member of this House and as a member of the executive council, Mr. Kerr demonstrated the fairness, competence and dedication that won him the admiration and support of the people of Burlington South.

Following Mr. Kerr's great example, it is my hope to build on all that he accomplished in Burlington South and to continue the tradition of effective representation he established and that the people of my riding deserve and expect.

As members know, I am new to this House and I am the first to admit that I have much to learn about the process and the procedures of this Legislature and of this government. Already, I have learned much about the political process simply by sitting in this chamber and listening to the remarks of more experienced members during the course of this debate.

In particular, I found the remarks made on Friday last by the leader of the loyal opposition and by his friend and ally the leader of the third party to be most interesting and informative. While I found the statements made by both gentlemen to be informative and instructive, their remarks did give rise to certain questions and problems which, while perhaps of no concern to a more knowledgeable member, are the source of some perplexity for me as a novice.

In the interests of my own continuing education as a member and in pursuit of a better understanding of the positions of the members opposite, I would like to take some time to address a few of the themes and ideas that have been developed in the course of the throne speech debate.

9:20 p.m.

In his address to this assembly on June 7, the member for York South (Mr. Rae) suggested to the members on this side that the results of the May general election had a message for all of us that we would do well to heed. The message, he said, was to listen to and pay attention to the voice of the people.

We thank him for this concern and for his advice, although I very much doubt he is qualified to give it. The last time I counted the honourable member's party held 25 seats in this assembly and had won 24 per cent of the popular vote. That showing would indicate to me the member should take heed of the advice he is so quick to give to us on this side.

Certainly, the results of the election, which I am told indicate a desire for change in the electorate, would lead me, were I the third party leader, to wonder why so few voters saw the New

Democratic Party as an appropriate instrument for effecting that change.

If the leader of the New Democratic Party and his colleagues are so good at listening to people, if they are so in touch with the aspirations of the people of this province, then I am at a loss to explain how the voters consistently relegate them to third place. I can only conclude they have a peculiar form of hearing problem, a peculiar form of political deafness. However, as I said, I am a political novice and perhaps the problem is not that the third party does not listen, but rather it is who they are listening to.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson), the leader of the party our New Democratic friends have chosen to support, has in the past suggested that strings are being pulled by the Canadian Labour Congress, the Ontario Federation of Labour and the United Auto Workers. He has been reported as saying the real masters of the NDP are the unions and the reason the NDP will never be trusted to govern is that it is not its own master. Apparently, while the Leader of the Opposition feels the third party cannot be trusted to govern, it can be trusted to support a government in a minority situation, especially if that government happens to be his.

I am not sure what that means. Again, I am new, but does it mean the Liberal Party of Ontario is now pulling the strings of the NDP? Does it mean the real masters of the NDP are now pulling the strings of both the third party and the Liberal Party? Does it mean the members of the Liberal Party will no longer be able to boast they are not the captives of any vested interest now that they have become the captives, not only of the NDP but also of the real masters of the NDP? Time alone will tell who is really wearing the pants in the unique relationship the other two parties in this House have negotiated between themselves.

It has no doubt been noticed that there has been considerable talk of conversions during this debate. For example, this government, our government, which over the past 10 years has put in place the most rigorous environmental laws in North America, is accused of using this throne speech to express its conversion to the cause of environmental protection. There are a few other conversions that have occurred in the past few weeks that deserve mention in this House, if for no other reason than to balance the record.

For instance, the leader of the third party has been converted from a social democrat to a Liberal supporter. In a sense, the member for York South has only returned to his political roots. It is no secret that as a young man the leader of the New Democratic Party campaigned for the Pierre Trudeau Liberals in the campaign of 1968. Now the member is again working in support of the Liberal Party—the Liberal Party of Ontario. It is our friends in the New Democratic Party who stand ready to make the changes that put Liberals first.

What surprises me about this latest conversion is that it is happening in spite of the fact the third party leader has had direct experience with Liberal administrations during his time in Ottawa. The member for York South said of that Liberal government, "It added new dimensions to the words 'arrogance,' 'waste' and 'mismanagement.'"

Of course, it may well be that our honourable friends in the third party do not subscribe to the view that a Liberal is a Liberal is a Liberal. Perhaps they do not subscribe to that view in spite of the fact their leader said the distance between the federal Liberals and the Leader of the Opposition is only as far as he can run since the last Gallup poll.

The views of the third party have certainly changed since the days when its leader said: "I can't believe the people of Ontario really want David Peterson to do for us what Pierre Trudeau has done for Canada." I cannot believe it either. I cannot believe the third party leader would help to do to this province what the federal Liberals did to this country.

But apparently the member has been converted. He will now support a party which he once called reactionary, which he once described as stealing Tory and NDP lines as they crawl away from their party names. What a conversion! It is a conversion which should not be forgotten by the members of this House during this debate. It is a conversion which will not be forgotten by the voters of this province.

Mr. Martel: I hope not.

Mr. Jackson: Of course, the leader and the members of the official opposition have also experienced something of a conversion as well. A real meeting of the minds has taken place over the past few weeks.

The member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) once described the NDP in a speech to the Toronto Board of Trade as bankrupt socialists. He said they are out of touch with reality and their big government, big spending, big deficit answers would not produce any real, new wealth or any real, lasting jobs.

The leader of the official opposition was saying just a few short months ago of his new

allies, "They may be nice people to have around; they make a lot of noise, but you never get the impression they can run the place."

Mr. Martel: Full of misery and hate, that is us.

Mr. Jackson: All is sweetness and light.

An hon. member: You can have a limousine, Elie.

Mr. Jackson: No, no, it is sweetness and light, and formerly bankrupt socialists will indeed have the chance to run the place, to try out some of their big government, big deficit answers. What was formerly out of touch with reality has become a guideline for positive change.

The Liberal conversion extends beyond a mere change of heart towards its social democratic friends to matters of substantive policy. Let me give one example. Before I was elected to this assembly, I was involved in the real estate profession. I made a point of familiarizing myself with the position of all three political parties on the issue of rent review.

I remember reading a Liberal Party policy paper on rent review. I have made a point of reviewing a copy recently in which the Liberal Party clearly stated that it categorically rejected the NDP doctrine that the answer to tenant concerns lies in extending government intervention to every aspect of the housing sector. Today the Liberals, it appears to me, do not categorically reject that doctrine but have adopted it with open arms. That is but one of several cases in which the official opposition has borrowed liberally from the party of bankrupt socialists.

We have reached the point where a Liberal is no longer a Liberal. A Liberal is no longer a Liberal but an understudy for a New Democrat. It used to be said that socialists in this country were simply Liberals in a hurry. It appears that Liberals in Ontario are simply socialists who are slow learners.

What we are left with after all these conversions, the leader of the official opposition was quick to point out, is not a coalition. He was quick to reassure us that they are not trying to persuade New Democrats to become Liberals. He said the New Democrats are not trying to persuade them to become New Democrats. That is what he said.

9:30 p.m.

Of course, they are not trying to persuade each other. They would be simply preaching to the converted. While we do not have a formal coalition, we have an alliance between two

parties in which one party has described the other as bankrupt socialists incapable of running the place and the other is describing its partner as reactionary.

We are left with an alliance that has moved no confidence in this government and is seeking an opportunity to implement some of its bankrupt and reactionary policies in this province. They are seeking that opportunity through an agreement they say will provide for stable government and will respect the mandate for change given this House by the electorate.

On the first point I would remind the members, and particularly our friends in the third party, what Tommy Douglas used to say about Liberals and stable government. Mr. Douglas observed that while the Liberals always talked about stable government, we all know how the stable is going to smell.

As for the second point, the mandate for change, I would make two observations. First, this government has introduced a throne speech that directly addresses that mandate and outlines an agenda for this assembly that all members could support. Second, there are two types of change, change for the better and change for the worse. The type of change to which the people of this province will be treated by this alliance between the bankrupt and the reactionary will, I fear, be of the latter variety.

Having listened to the members opposite debate this throne speech and call for the defeat of this government, I will be able to report to my constituents that, as one would expect in politics, they do make strange bedfellows, but in this case at least both parties share the same bunk.

As a new member I am also somewhat confused about the precise nature and standing of a signed accord negotiated between the Liberals and the New Democrats. In his address to this assembly Friday last, the leader of the third party said it was a historic precedent, not only for this Legislature but for other Legislatures in the British Commonwealth, to have this kind of document in place.

The honourable member said it was a most democratic document and one he was proud his party had negotiated. This accord is, I take it, the founding document in what the third party leader rather colourfully described as this province's political equivalent of Vatican II.

Be that as it may, there is one thing about this accord that disturbs me as a member of this House. It is my understanding that under the terms of this accord the leader of the Liberal Party will not request a dissolution of the

Legislature except on defeat of specifically framed no-confidence motions during the two-year period. During that two-year period the New Democratic Party will neither move nor vote no confidence, nor will bills, including budget bills, be treated or designated as matters of confidence. That strikes me as a very cosy arrangement, one that, the member's assurances aside, seems to do some violence to the spirit of the parliamentary system.

It means that during this two-year period the Liberals, should they form the government, can introduce important legislation, have it opposed by the NDP and lose the confidence of this House but not face an election because the loss of confidence is not really a loss of confidence. The stable is already beginning to smell a bit funny.

The accord means that for two years the Liberals would not be willing to stand or fall on any specific piece of legislation, no matter how important, and they would not consider any policies worthy of a vote of confidence, no matter how sweeping or controversial.

Perhaps these mysteries are not well known to a new member. I am still learning.

Mr. Martel: You had better learn.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Jackson: Perhaps there is some statute of limitations on the abuse of the concept of confidence by government of which I am unaware.

Frankly, I also have some concerns about this two-year time frame. It seems to have been selected not out of any concern for stable government but out of political convenience. Two years should be just enough time to replenish the war chest while leaving sufficient to put some distance between oneself and one's partner, should this parliament last four or five years.

All this may be very academic, for I do not believe, nor do I know of anyone who seriously believes, that this accord will stand up for two years, should events dictate that it be enacted.

The member for London Centre rightly pointed out that we do not have a coalition. We do not have a marriage. We have a common law relationship of convenience which will likely not stand the test of time or events or the imperatives of partisan political self-interest. This accord may well prove to be the last will and testament of the Ontario New Democratic Party. That will be for the voters to decide. As the leader of the third party said, the voters will have an opportunity to judge all of us.

A few years ago the member for York South said: "I am always concerned when any group of individuals unilaterally hijacks or imposes a pattern of conduct on the Legislature. I do not like it when the government does it and I do not like it when anybody else does it." It is regrettable that the member did not remember those words before he imposed a pattern of conduct on this Legislature which will govern the business of this House and the business of the people of Ontario for two years.

There is clearly an alternative, the alternative this government offered the Legislature in the throne speech. We are prepared to be judged by this House, not on the basis of any negotiated agreement which would artificially limit the ability of the House meaningfully to express confidence or want of confidence in the government of the day, or which would limit the ability of any member fully and effectively to represent his constituency, but on the basis of the merits of the Legislature, of the legislation and programs introduced for debate.

We do not seek nor do we need a two-year, nonaggression pact. We are not afraid to face the judgements of this House on a daily basis. We do not ask for a two-year suspension of the ultimate test of the right to govern this province. We do not say check with us in two years and then we might be ready to accept the responsibility for the legislation we brought in.

In the throne speech this government clearly indicated that it is ready to provide the people of Ontario with the same responsible and effective leadership it has provided in the past, leadership which has helped make this province the economic powerhouse of Canada.

As the representative for Burlington South, I was especially pleased that the government through the throne speech has reaffirmed its commitment to expand commuter rail services to Burlington. Many of my constituents are commuters who travel to work in either Metro Toronto or Hamilton. The extension of commuter rail service to Burlington will be a special benefit to our large commuter population and to the community as a whole.

I was also pleased by the announcement made on June 10 by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. McCague) that the use of conventional rail and existing rights of way will accelerate the western extension of commuter rail service to Burlington. The commuters in my riding will be delighted to learn they will be getting this rail service sooner than expected. The taxpayers in my riding will be delighted to

learn the system is being expanded in a most cost-effective manner.

I join with my constituents who commute to Hamilton in expressing the hope that the government and the city of Hamilton and the regional municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth will be able quickly to identify and implement appropriate services to the Hamilton area.

Having served for nine years as a public school trustee, I applaud this government for its commitment to provide an opportunity to every person who wishes to do so to express his views on the extension of full funding to the separate secondary school component of our public school system.

9:40 p.m.

The policy for full and equal funding for separate secondary schools deservedly has the support of the Liberal and New Democratic parties in our House. This policy should be adopted, but not at the expense of our public schools, which I regard, on the basis of my experience as a trustee, as a most valuable mechanism for achieving social integration, encouraging tolerance and guaranteeing equality of opportunity.

My brief experience with this government has convinced me that it is sensitive to and is listening to those who are concerned that this new policy should not have a negative impact on the resources committed to public schools or on the quality of education provided by our public schools.

While the throne speech outlines many changes and proposes many significant reforms which would affect all areas of public life in Ontario, I am assured that in the midst of all these plans for change one thing will remain constant. I refer to this government's commitment to responsible public sector management. It is this government's record of responsible management which to a great extent permits this administration to propose significant reforms without at the same time having to increase taxes or mortgage the future of this province through heavy debt.

Through the throne speech, the government has reaffirmed its commitment to control the growth of the public sector in Ontario. The government has set a target of achieving, through normal attrition and early retirement, a five per cent reduction in the civil service of the province. This is a realistic target, one that the record of this administration indicates is achievable.

In 1984-85, we were able to reduce our projected deficit by 16.5 per cent. Our 1984-85 deficit, at an interim estimate of \$1.7 billion, is

nearly \$600 million or 25 per cent lower than our actual 1983-84 deficit. This is the type of financial management that has underwritten economic growth in this province. This is the type of management that has helped this province achieve the lowest unemployment rate and the lowest youth unemployment rate in this country. This is the type of management that has stimulated the creation of 455,000 new jobs in this province since the end of the recession-54 per cent of all the new jobs created in Canada during that time. This is the type of management this government, if given the opportunity, would provide in the future to ensure the economic and social progress of the province.

What does the New Democratic-Liberal alliance offer? The member for York South has said if he were the leader of this province he would invest to create 100,000 jobs this year. What does this party say? We say that since the end of the recession the province has been creating jobs at a rate of 182,000 a year, and that under this government, in co-operation with the private sector, we could create 200,000 jobs this year in Ontario. The third party, as the member for London Centre well knows, does not know how to create real, lasting jobs, except the one government-subsidized program it is proposing for 48 close friends, which is going to last for only two years.

The leader of the loyal opposition says his party would use the deficit as a creative tool. The only things the only Liberal government that has been in power in this country lately has used the deficit to create are a bigger deficit, higher taxes and a staggering debt. The Canadian taxpayers are just now beginning to pay the price for past Liberal excesses through tax increases introduced in the May federal budget. The Ontario taxpayers may find they simply cannot afford the New Democratic-Liberal alliance, that the price of this ambition is just a bit too steep.

The members opposite have already determined they will vote no confidence in this government, that between them they will take a crack at transforming the economic powerhouse of Canada into the economic poorhouse of Canada. The one thing that redeems the situation is that while they make strange bedfellows now. in a few months they might well be estranged bedfellows. No doubt we will hear some speech about how the spirit of the accord is not being honoured, about how the will of the people is being frustrated, about how the tail is wagging the dog and about the need for the government to seek a real mandate.

All that is in the future. In the interim, we will watch, the people of this province will watch and my constituents in Burlington South will watch as the parties that will vote no confidence in this throne speech and in this government lose all confidence in themselves and lose the confidence of the people of Ontario.

Mr. Henderson: I am very pleased to speak on behalf of my people in Humber to His Honour's remarks outlining the plans of this imperilled government. Perhaps instead of "plans," I should say "wishes," since the word "plans" implies an opportunity for implementation that may well prove very elusive.

My riding of Humber is a microcosm of urban Ontario. My people represent almost every ethnic, cultural and religious background in Ontario and span every income level from the very wealthy to the very disadvantaged. They are an informed and alert constituency and I am proud to represent them.

The community of Humber was in one sense founded by Étienne Brûlé several hundred years ago; so my constituency very literally is one of the cradles of civilization as we know it in Ontario and in Canada.

I wish at the outset to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your ascent to the august office you now occupy and to wish you well in overseeing this very spirited assembly.

I wish also to pay tribute to my predecessor, Morley Kells, former Minister of the Environment in the Miller government. Mr. Kells and I are far apart in our political beliefs, but I pay tribute this evening to his industry and conviction. I know his commitment to community life in Etobicoke will continue.

Many issues are mentioned in this throne speech that are of interest to us in Humber. The people of Humber are proud of our Ontario. We believe Ontario should be "a place to stand and a place to grow" and we treasure the natural heritage that is ours in Ontario.

My people are dismayed when they look out on the Humber River, which is the eastern boundary of my riding, and see the brown chemical broth that flows between the banks of the Humber River. They feel sad and angry because they know the waters of the Humber once upon a time were clear and fresh and teeming with freshwater fish and other wildlife.

The people of Humber are sad and sometimes very angry about the death of our lakes and rivers in northern and central Ontario because of acid rain poisoning. They say: "How come? How come Inco, Falconbridge, Ontario Hydro and

plants and factories in Ontario's industrial heartland can be permitted to continue to pour tons of acidic residues into our atmosphere to bring about this wanton and shameless destruction of our natural heritage?"

9:50 p.m.

The people of Humber applaud the 25 initiatives towards renewing our environment and developing our heritage outlined in this throne speech, but they say: "Why now? Where was this government and where were its 25 initiatives when the rivers and lakes of Ontario were dying and the beaches were being polluted and closed, and the smokestacks were pouring sulphur emissions into our atmosphere to rain down acid on Ontario?"

The people of Humber read of this throne speech and say: "No. Too little, too late." They know it was my party, not the Tories, who campaigned on the need for tough action on the environment. They know this government had a mandate to act and failed to take that lead.

The people of Humber believe Ontario should be a land of opportunity. They believe men and women of courage and vision should be rewarded for their industry in Ontario. That is why my party campaigned during the last election on a platform of more help for small business, better availability of equity capital, the easing of tax and regulatory burdens, manpower assistance and help in breaking into export markets.

The people of Humber also applaud the measures in this throne speech that will help small business; measures that will preserve and create jobs, protect Ontario manufacturers, improve trade relations with our major trading partners and offer tax relief to firms that do create jobs.

But the people of Humber are an informed and wise constituency. They know where these ideas came from. They know my party produced a comprehensive small business program and a small business act almost 10 years ago, and they know my party has been championing the needs of small business in this Legislature for more than a dozen years.

They ask this government: "Why now? Where were you when unemployment was rising and interest rates were skyrocketing, when jobs were going unfilled on one side of the street while breadlines were forming on the other? Where were you when small businesses were suffocating under the burden of excess taxation, bureaucratic regulation and red tape? Why were you not fighting then for small business in Ontario?"

The people of Humber believe Ontario should be a caring and compassionate community. They believe the humanity of a community can be measured in how well it cares for its senior citizens, and they ask whether we in Ontario have been doing enough for the men and women who built Ontario and made it strong and great.

That is why my party promised during this past campaign to increase community and home support services for senior citizens, to improve health and social services for senior citizens and to encourage the further development of facilities like the Islington Centre in Humber to provide a focal point in the community for senior citizens and to encourage their industry and creativity.

We believe it makes a lot more sense that senior citizens should be able to live in their home communities if they want to, where people, friends and surroundings are familiar and near and where family and loved ones may be close at hand.

The people of Humber applaud the measures in this throne speech that will benefit the senior citizens of Ontario, but they ask: "Why now? What were you doing about affordable housing, health care, community centres and income supplements for seniors when you had the mandate, the majority and the opportunity to act on behalf of senior citizens in Ontario? Why should we believe you now?"

The people of Humber want Ontario to be a wise and just society. They know the value of first-rate primary, secondary and post-secondary education. They know the importance of ensuring that our young people are trained in fields that will be marketable so they can expect jobs when they have completed their studies.

That is why my party has promised to restore the provincial share of education costs to 60 per cent, to teach skills in our community colleges that are relevant to the work place and to improve career counselling in our high schools and colleges. That is why my party has promised fair and equal access to university education and has promised to ignore the Bovey commission recommendations for a 50 per cent hike in university tuition fees and an approximately 11,000-place reduction in university enrolment.

That is why we said the extended funding of Roman Catholic separate schools is a matter for sober, sensitive and reflective discussion and problem solving. That is why we were critical of a government that chose to take action on this subject as a pre-election, vote-getting manoeuvre and paved the way for partisan rhetoric and discord on a sensitive and delicate issue.

The people of Humber applaud the initiatives such as the \$100-million quality education fund announced in this throne speech. They applaud the government's intent to restore the province's share of education costs. They applaud the government's hesitation about the Bovey commission. We applaud all that, but we are nervous about the lack of direction and purpose in these education initiatives. They seem designed to curry favour in designated areas of the electorate instead of providing a plan and a purpose for improvements in Ontario's two fine education systems.

The people of Humber say, "Too little, too late." They ask: "Why did you allow Ontario's share of education costs to fall from 61 per cent to 49 per cent? Why have you allowed a shortage of some 62,000 workers with proper vocational training to develop?" The people of Humber say that is just not good enough from a government that had a majority and a mandate to act.

The people of Humber believe that if Ontario is to be a place to stand and a place to grow, Ontarians need decent and affordable housing. That is why my party promised support for co-operative housing initiatives and led the way in the fight for tenants' rights. That is why we have been consistent and vigorous in our support of rent controls, because we insist that decent, affordable housing can be available to low- and middle-income Ontarians. We worry a lot about the continuing conversion of low-cost, affordable housing to high-priced apartment, hotel and condominium units.

The people of Humber applaud the new found Tory love affair with rent control and co-op housing and help for first-home purchasers, but they say: "Why now? Where was this government when they had the majority they recently sought to renew? Where were they during the recent campaign on these issues?"

Now the people have spoken and the government says: "There go the people. We must follow, for we are their leaders." That is not the kind of leadership the people of Humber want. We want vanguard, not rearguard, leadership.

The people of Humber want a just and equitable society. We believe in equal opportunity and affirmative action for women and groups that often do not have access to the best jobs in society. That is why my party has taken a stand on affirmative action and equal pay for work of equal value. That is why my party has promised to create at least 10,000 new subsidized child care spaces and encouraged the development of work place child care facilities.

The people of Humber applaud the government's new interest in employment equity and in equal pay for work of equal value and in the creation of new child care spaces, and I join in their applause because I know that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. However, the people of Humber ask, "Where was this government when the women of Ontario were asking for sensitivity and wisdom and action on issues affecting their rights?"

The people of Humber applaud the words of this throne speech, but they were not born yesterday. They recognize a Liberal throne speech when they hear it, and they know it is the Ontario Liberal Party and its candidates and its leader who campaigned on these issues. They know this government, when it had the opportunity to act, failed to do so.

They ask whether we should believe this apparent conversion, this deathbed repentance. They say: "No; because we do not believe the Tories, after 42 years of power in Ontario, have made an 11th-hour discovery of sensitive, compassionate government. We do not believe a government that governs one way, campaigns the same way and then suffers a massive defeat and promises something else should be trusted to govern in Ontario."

10 p.m.

The people of Humber know the difference between an 11th-hour conversion and opportunistic plagiarism. The people of Humber made a 13,000-vote turnaround in my constituency on May 2.

More people in Ontario voted for my party on May 2 than for either of our two major rivals. The margin may be slim but the mandate is very clear. The people of Ontario want a province of opportunity and compassion and a government of sensitivity and leadership. The people of Ontario want a compassionate society where the strong are just and the weak are secure. They have given my party a mandate to offer that kind of government and leadership and we do not propose to fail them.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by extending through you to the Speaker we elected last week my congratulations on his new post. To you, sir, I would say that I enjoyed working with you on the procedural affairs committee over the last four years. I look forward to seeing you back in the committee in another role, perhaps looking at things from a slightly different perspective than you had in the last four years.

In listening to the debate on the throne speech during the last two days, I have been quite surprised. I know what we are hearing from the other side is what we often call a swan song, but I had always thought of a swan song as being, although sad, something very graceful, not angry, clumsy and uninformed, which in reality is what we have been getting over the course of the last few days.

It is unfortunate the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) has left the House. Like him, I am very glad to be able to represent my constituents in the riding of Hamilton Mountain in this debate on the throne speech. I should point out that I can walk to the edge of my riding, at the top of the escarpment, and I can look out over the riding of Burlington South.

Mr. Wildman: The member looks down on Burlington South.

Mr. Charlton: That is right. I look down on Burlington South. I can watch the industrial pollution from Stelco, Dofasco and a lot of other, smaller industries, and from Swaru, the incinerator in Hamilton. I can watch as the southwesterly winds pick up that pollution and blow it across the riding of Burlington South.

I recall the comments the member made about this province and this administration and about having the toughest environmental legislation of any jurisdiction in North America. He is correct. The problem is one of enforcement, and I point this out to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the government party, but specifically to the member for Burlington South because he represents people in his riding who are affected by this problem. We have the best and toughest environmental legislation of any jurisdiction in North America, that is true. We have the worst enforcement record of any jurisdiction in North America save one, the state of Louisiana.

As the member said, he is a new member who has a lot to learn. He has to learn awfully fast if he wants to survive around here. He spent a fair bit of time during his comments talking about the negotiated deal, the agenda this party and the Liberal Party negotiated, and how his party did not need a two-year pact, how his party did not need this and did not need that.

I see the Minister of Education, one of the government negotiators, entering the House. I rather fondly recall the second time our negotiating committee reported back to the New Democratic Party caucus after the second session with the Liberals and the second session with the government negotiators. Essentially, what our negotiators told us about their second round of

negotiations with the government party was that they came in and said: "What do you want? Ask and you have got it. Do you want to write our throne speech?" That is what the party over there offered in the negotiations; everything that the Liberals discussed with us and more. There was only one major difference. We had a great—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You were not there and I was. That was the only difference. I was there and you were not.

Mr. Martel: Shall I turn the tape recorder on?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The Minister of Education and the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) will please let the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton) continue.

Mr. Martel: Did you call the House leader to order as well?

The Deputy Speaker: I did.

Mr. Martel: I did not hear you.

The Deputy Speaker: Both of you.

Mr. Charlton: It would seem to me that again tonight the Minister of Education and chief negotiator for the government party is protesting a little too much. He is sounding more and more like he is in opposition.

At any rate, I would like to take a moment to point out one last thing to the member for Burlington South. No strings will be pulled in this parliament with the changes that will be occurring. The only strings that have any consequence in this circumstance are those that will be cut next Tuesday.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Hamilton Mountain has the floor and he is trying to speak.

Mr. Charlton: I will repeat the last comment. The only strings that have any consequence in the present circumstance are the strings across there which are being cut. I think most people in this province will gasp a long sigh of relief next Tuesday, some time around six o'clock.

I would like to deal with a number of the issues in the throne speech from the perspective not only of the issues that they deal with but also of their history as issues and the reasons we find the throne speech very difficult to deal with. We had the member for Burlington South mention in his speech yesterday's announcement about the cancellation of GO-ALRT into Hamilton and the commitment by the government that the commuter rail service into Hamilton would be a heavy rail service.

10:10 p.m.

We applaud that announcement, but I want the members to think about it in real terms. We have had a government that a year and a half ago said—the member for Wentworth North (Mr. Ward) who was on the regional council in Hamilton-Wentworth at the time can bear this out—"You take GO-ALRT and you take York Street or you get nothing." That was the kind of consensus, understanding and consultative government we got from the Tories on the opposite side of the House when they had a majority: "GO-ALRT technology, York Street, elevated rail or nothing. Take it or leave it." They have spent millions of dollars studying and planning for that proposal.

Now, in a minority situation, we have a repentance. Cancel GO-ALRT, back to heavy rail, which is what that party and this party said in the first place, several millions of dollars ago.

Interjection.

Mr. Charlton: You may have, too, but you did not speak up. If you spoke up, then obviously you do not have very much influence.

Several millions of dollars later, we are back where we should have been in the first place. I do not call that good, responsive, understanding or even intelligent government.

We now have a number of proposals from the Tories in their throne speech which deal with a number of issues that are very dear to my heart because of the work I have been involved in during the last four years. One of them is an item on right-to-know legislation. I recall a resolution that I introduced last year. My colleague the member for Algoma has done a lot of work both here and in committees on right-to-know legislation.

When our resolution was introduced here last fall, the response we got from the then Minister of Labour, Mr. Ramsay, was that he was not prepared to move independently; he was not prepared to deal with the question of the right to know until the federal government took a position. What we had, as members well know, was stonewalling here until the feds took action, stonewalling in Ottawa and hence no action.

Mr. Wildman: They were worried about the question of giving away trade secrets.

Mr. Charlton: Now, all of a sudden, all the government's objections to proceeding on its own, without regard for trade secrets, as my colleague has pointed out, seem to have vanished. The government asks us to believe it is really prepared to proceed and that, even if it is

prepared to proceed, this is the right way to go about running a province: oppose it for three years straight—no, no and no, three years in a row—and then proceed because there has been an election and we have a minority government.

But on every issue where this government proceeds in that fashion, somebody out there in the public gets robbed. If it is taxes, it is a taxpayer who gets robbed. If it is environmental legislation, it could be any number of people who are affected. If it is right to know in occupational health and safety and in chemical use in the work place, the three years of delays may have cost a life or two, or five or 10 because this government stalled. Now, all of a sudden, the government is prepared to proceed and it is asking us to support this kind of government.

I refer to the member for Burlington South and the comments in his speech. He used some quotes from the member for York South, who said something to the effect that he did not want to support the member for London Centre in the light of what the Liberal government in Ottawa had done to this country.

This party, the New Democratic Party, had a very difficult choice to make during the course of the last six weeks. We had to choose between the member for London Centre in the light of what the Liberals had done in Ottawa during the last couple of decades and the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller) in the light of what Mr. Mulroney is doing to Canada in 1985, and we all know what direction that is taking us.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: You made the choice on that basis, did you? You certainly forget a lot. You certainly have a very selective memory.

Mr. Charlton: We had a lot of other bases, and I will be going through some of them here tonight. I have an excellent memory. I will be raising a couple of them in the House over the course of the next week.

We have proposals in the throne speech about amending control orders on Ontario Hydro and Inco. Members on that side of the House wondered why some of us had the gall to laugh and snicker when the Lieutenant Governor was reading the throne speech. The laughter had nothing to do with the Lieutenant Governor, let me assure the members over there. It had to do with the travesty that has gone on in this province over the last 15 years around issues such as Ontario Hydro and Inco emissions and control orders that have been extended, that were set in 1970 and have still never been met, and still will not be by 1990.

In the throne speech we finally have a proposal for an environmental protection fund. When we proposed that fund two short years ago, this government laughed. The Treasurer said, "We cannot afford it." The Minister of the Environment said, "We cannot afford it." He went even further and said, "We do not need it."

I recall last fall when the then Minister of the Environment, the member for Sarnia, and the member for Wentworth (Mr. Dean) stood on the side of the hill at the Upper Ottawa Street landfill site. The Minister of the Environment said: "There is no problem with this site. We do not need a flaring system to burn the gases that are coming out of it. The fact it is leaking is not a problem. It is leaking too slowly to be a serious problem to anybody. We do not need to clean up the site. We do not need to spend any money here." He said no to the requests of the regional council.

Now they are proposing to create an environmental protection fund to start cleaning up the very sites that last fall the Minister of the Environment said were not a problem. Now they are proposing to take action on things which this party and the other opposition party have been raising as issues for a number of years. Now I am asked why the Conservative Party's conversion in this throne speech is not acceptable to the New Democratic Party.

I will tell the members why. There is another landfill site in Whitchurch-Stouffville which we have been raising as an issue in this House for some five years now. Some of the members opposite are probably sick of hearing about the Stouffville dump. In 1981, when we first started raising the issue of this site, the Ministry of the Environment and this government said: "There is no problem with the Stouffville landfill site. It does not leak. It is not contaminating anybody's well. There are no health effects. There are no dangers to the community from it."

10:20 p.m.

Just a few short months ago, in February 1985, we finally had the Hydro geological study on that site. Do the members know what it said? It said the site has been leaking for years. It said there is likely no longer any need to clean it up. I do not even totally agree with the Hydro geological study, but what it said is that most of the stuff that has leaked out of the site is too far gone to retrieve now anyway.

Yet the Progressive Conservative Party wants us to support a government which stonewalls through no action after no action and then finally tells us the truth, that it is too late anyway. Is that what we are asked to support? Is that what we are asked to have faith in? I am sorry, my friends, those of us on this side cannot continue to support that kind of government. We may not get everything we want out of this deal we have worked out with the Liberals, but we certainly cannot do any worse than we have with the Tories and we will likely do somewhat better.

One of the other items that drew a fair bit of laughter during the presentation of the speech from the throne—and I guess this is a reflection of what we see as commitment and belief in what they are telling us—was the part that says they will reinstate the select committee on Ontario Hydro. This will be another favourite of some of my colleagues to my right in the Liberal Party. We had a select committee on Ontario Hydro in the last minority government.

Mr. Kerrio: The realities of March 19.

Mr. Charlton: The realities of March 19, 1981.

The government across the way cancelled that committee without consultation and without comment; it just went. That shows the commitment of the government to real public scrutiny of Ontario Hydro. Now they are going to give us back the committee. Well, we do not need them and we are going to get it anyway. We will get it from a party that at least in the short term has a commitment to look seriously at Ontario Hydro, not just set up a commission to placate the opposition parties.

I would like to raise a couple of other local issues. These are not specifically from the throne speech, although I would assume since they were campaign promises they are included—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Send them over.

Mr. Charlton: You had your chance. That is exactly what I said the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) said in there. A minute ago he was denying it; now he is making the offer again.

Anyway, we have a couple of items here that I would like to deal with. Not only are they a reflection of how the party across the way operates as a government, but they are a reflection of the total inadequacy, the stupidity of political games in the process of public policy.

During the course of the campaign, we in Hamilton were promised \$3.75 million for the refurbishing of Macassa Lodge and Wentworth Lodge. Unfortunately, although we had the promise from the party across the way, some weeks later we learned that we would not be able to take advantage of that announced promise. The region was not in a position to participate this

year because it had already set its budgets and had not budgeted for its share of refurbishing those facilities. Obviously, nobody over there had bothered to tell anybody at the other end that the money would be forthcoming.

Those people have been in government for 42 years and are supposed to know how municipalities and regions budget and when they need the information so they can include it in their planning, but nobody told anybody at the region that this money was forthcoming. The people over there did not want that fact leaked because they wanted to get a full, first announcement out during the campaign.

We had another very similar situation just before the campaign as well. There was the Premier's announcement of the new funding for 7,500 subsidized day care spaces. We had the same situation, the damned announcement was too late for this year.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Well before the campaign; 72 hours.

Mr. Charlton: Yes, 72 hours, but it was already too late for this year. Budgets were already set and nobody had the money to take advantage of it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Another epoch.

Mr. Charlton: Yes. Efficient government, planned government; really great stuff.

Mr. Mackenzie: When are you announcing, Larry?

Mr. Charlton: Any time now.

There are a number of other items that have been mentioned in the throne speech, but I would like to deal with the Ontario health insurance plan specifically. For the first time in my eight years in the Legislature, this speech admitted that OHIP premiums are not the best way to go. OHIP premiums might even, in fact, be regressive.

To quote from the throne speech: "First, as part of tax reform"—my God, Tories admitting that OHIP premiums are taxes.

Mr. Wildman: They are.

Mr. Charlton: Of course they are, but five years ago when we fought them on that issue, they said OHIP premiums were not taxes, they were fee charges.

Mr. Martel: In 1968 when we voted against the bill, they said it was not a tax.

Mr. Charlton: That is right. It says, "First, as part of tax reform, to ensure more equitable health care financing, my government will freeze Ontario health insurance plan premiums and steadily raise premium assistance. My govern-

ment will progressively employ tax sources less onerous to low-income families in order to finance this essential service."

I see the member for Burlington South is back in his seat. He can have a look at Hansard because I made some comments that were directed to him.

I say to all the members across the way that we cannot stomach those kinds of comments coming from this administration on OHIP premiums after listening to those members when we fought them on 35 per cent increases and 28 per cent increases, all in one shot, year after year. All of a sudden OHIP premiums are an onerous tax on low-income families in Ontario, and they expect us to buy this throne speech.

I say to the member for Burlington South he had better sit down and read about six years of Hansard to understand the reactions that are coming from over here.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Which six would you recommend?

Mr. McClellan: He will have lots of time to do it.

Mr. Charlton: Yes, he will have lots of time to do it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the member would direct his remarks through the chair.

Mr. Charlton: I will be wrapping up. The throne speech says, "Indeed, my government will gradually increase...the province's share of public school financing."

Mr. Speaker, you were here over the course of the last decade, and then quite a few years more, if I recall correctly. I think you are a class-of-1967 man, are you? Along with those of us in both parties here, you have watched over the course of the last decade as this government took educational financing, public school financing from 60 per cent to 48 or 47 per cent, and now it is

talking about gradually increasing the provincial share of the cost of education. It is asking us to help solve a problem it created intentionally and with the full understanding of what the impact would be.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No doubt your friends will raise it to 69 per cent in their first budget.

Mr. Charlton: No doubt.

The throne speech which was presented to us here in this House last week has very carefully set out a number of very important issues for this province, but it has also set out very clearly all the reasons the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario is no longer fit to govern. It has set out all the issues which this party and the other opposition party have been railing about over the last decade and it has taken a full decade.

The member for Burlington South mentioned earlier that Liberals were understudies to New Democrats. The member had better study his history because this party has been setting the political agenda in Ontario for the past 50 years.

Mr. Martel: We wrote the throne speech.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Charlton: The party to my right may be understudies, but members opposite are still sitting at home.

Mr. Speaker: Has the honourable member completed his remarks?

Mr. Charlton: I am finished.

Mr. Speaker: Could I ask who the next speaker is?

Mr. Pierce: I am, Mr. Speaker. If it is your wish, I will hold my remarks until the next session of the House.

On motion by Mr. Pierce, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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No. 7

Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 33rd Parliament Thursday, June 13, 1985 Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, June 13, 1985

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I would like to make a statement on five significant initiatives recently taken by our government in the field of occupational health and safety. They indicate our continuing commitment to improve the working conditions of Ontario workers.

Building on the existing provisions of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its underlying premise of worker involvement in hazard identification, I am pleased to announce the following initiatives:

First, a designated substances enforcement unit: This unit is being established within the occupational health and safety division. The staff of the new unit will have special training in the administration of toxic substance regulations. The unit will carry out unannounced inspections of work places to audit compliance with the regulations. It will assist in the resolution of disputes between the parties in difficult cases. It will provide guidance to the ministry inspectorate as well as to management and labour by means of information packages and training materials. Appropriate and prompt remedial action up to and including prosecution will be taken.

I believe the activities of this special enforcement team will not only deter contravention of the regulations but will also act as a catalyst to motivate the work place parties to develop effective programs to control worker exposure to toxic substances.

Second, the right to know: The issue of workers' right to know is understandably a matter of urgent concern in the field of health and safety. It is axiomatic that workers who are aware of and knowledgeable about potential hazards in their work places are better placed to reduce the incidence of occupational accidents, illness and disease.

With this in mind, I recently forwarded to the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Occupational Safety a draft regulation requiring as follows: first, that every employer develop an inventory in writing of hazardous substances in the work place to which a worker is likely to be exposed; second, that every employer identify the processes, occupations and work stations in which exposure of workers to these hazardous agents may occur; and third, that such inventories be subject to consultation with and review by joint health and safety committees or worker representatives and be posted in the work place.

This is the first step towards a more comprehensive policy on the provision of information on hazardous substances. Officials of my ministry have been participating with representatives of other provincial governments and representatives of labour and management across Canada under the aegis of the federal Department of Labour to develop a national scheme to improve worker access to information on toxic substances.

The report, which was received yesterday, will be considered by my officials. We then hope to proceed expeditiously to develop a package to implement that scheme in Ontario to ensure that appropriate labelling, data sheets and training are provided to workers exposed to toxic substances in this province. This will lead to the framing of amendments to the statute, in addition to the promulgation of new regulations.

Third, toxic substance regulations: I have also forwarded to the advisory council a proposed regulation adopting exposure values for some 600 toxic substances. These exposure values will be available to directors acting under section 20 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, which provides for orders prohibiting, limiting or restricting the exposure of a worker to a substance where that substance might endanger health.

In addition, the exposure values will provide guidelines for inspectors issuing control orders under the provisions of the regulations respecting industrial establishments. The 600 substances and their related exposure values will be made widely known to employers and workers throughout the province, thereby informing them of the specific criteria on which control programs should be based.

Fourth, generic regulations: Last November my predecessor published a notice announcing that the ministry was proposing the regulation of some 134 organic chemicals in an omnibus solvents regulation. In response, the ministry received 55 briefs. On the basis of the comments received, I am pleased to announce that a specific draft regulation will be published in the Ontario Gazette on June 22, 1985, setting mandated exposure limits for 133 solvents and containing the major control features of the standard designated substances regulation.

This is the prototype for a number of composite regulations covering groupings of toxic substances. By adopting this generic approach, we will accelerate considerably the pace of regulation development for hazardous substances.

Fifth, mining health and safety: Almost one year ago a tragic situation occurred at Falconbridge when a rockburst took place and took the lives of four miners. In the light of this tragic accident, and after consultation with both labour and management, my predecessor established in October last year a tripartite ground control and emergency preparedness committee.

In recognition of the importance of ground control to the wellbeing of miners and the safe development of our mineral resources, I am pleased to announce that, as part of our efforts to augment our understanding and improve our techniques in rock mechanics and ground control, a \$4.2-million research program is to be conducted over five years.

It will be funded equally by the federal government, through the Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology; the government of Ontario, through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development; and the mining industry itself. The proposed research includes studies at Ontario mines using extensive state-of-the-art detection technology.

I would like to acknowledge the initiative and support of my colleague the Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Mr. Harris), who worked with me to conclude the above arrangements. I believe the important initiatives I have outlined are a further indication of the priority our government attaches to worker health and safety.

2:10 p.m.

LOAN AND TRUST LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Runciman: I am pleased to announce the release today of a consultation draft version of our proposed Ontario Loan and Trust

Corporations Act. I would like to emphasize just how open we have been in the development of this proposed legislation, from public hearings last spring by an all-party committee of the Ontario Legislature through ongoing intergovernmental and industry input last summer and fall

This is a complex and lengthy piece of proposed legislation. To be frank, we determined long ago that a consultative approach to its development would not be the fastest route available, but that it would certainly prove to be the most effective way of developing high-quality legislation capable of meeting the challenges facing the loan and trust industry in the 1980s and beyond. The release today of our draft proposal is the next logical step in this consultative process. The feedback we receive on this draft version will help to shape the legislation's final form.

I am convinced that a thought-provoking process of open debate will provide the key to the successful development of a new Loan and Trust Corporations Act that will best serve both the public and the industry. To that end, I would underscore the fact that this proposed legislation is not carved in stone; it will instead provide an intelligent framework for dialogue.

It would take far too long for me to describe all of the draft act's features; however, I would draw members' attention to several areas where we have departed from previous policy. For example, to ensure that trust companies can afford both the management expertise and the equity cushion necessary for adequate public protection, we have proposed an increase in the minimum capital levels required by law from \$5 million to \$10 million. Of course, we would maintain some exemptions for small trust companies with less than \$10 million now operating or wishing to operate in a restricted or regional community.

We have also provided in the draft act for the development of professional standards for senior corporate officers. We do not want to interfere unduly with the day-to-day management decisions, but some basic standards, such as requiring a chief financial officer be an accountant, may well be in the best interests of the depositing public.

Perhaps no legislation could be devised that would be entirely fraudproof, but the creation of a legislative framework requiring management expertise and competence would go far towards promoting the kind of internal corporate controls that, in effect, would improve both selfregulation and self-discipline.

I would draw members' attention to what I see as a central issue, that of conflict of interest. This draft legislation prohibits loans to directors of loan or trust corporations, the only exception being a limited first mortgage loan on the director's own home. Thus, we can eliminate any temptation for a director to choose between company or personal benefit.

To further strengthen our safeguards against self-dealing, trust and loan corporations will be prohibited from making a loan against any security that had been owned by a director within the previous 36-month period. We feel this will prove to be a successful way to defeat any efforts at circumventing the director loan prohibition through ownership transfer.

I look forward to the public, government and corporate feedback that will be a result of today's release. We have an opportunity here for some frank and open discussion. I know all people involved will bear in mind the challenging goal of developing new legislation that will provide protection for the public, instil confidence in the industry, help to provide better service for customers and serve as a stimulus for Canadian business.

ASSISTED HOUSING

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Today I would like to address two housing issues: one which was raised briefly in the House the other day involving a change in Ontario Housing Corp. policy; the second dealing with the ministry's very successful convert-to-rent program.

I wish to advise the House that Ontario Housing Corp. will expand its mandate for assisted housing to include psychiatrically handicapped persons. This change means that psychiatrically handicapped persons who are capable of living independently, but whose ability to earn a living is limited, will now be eligible for assisted housing.

The new policy will apply to all housing administered directly by OHC. Other housing agencies supported by OHC, including municipal nonprofit corporations, private nonprofit corporations and co-operatives, will have the option of adopting the policy. The policy will be implemented in consultation with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

This government believes that people who are capable of living in the community should be

able to do so. This change is consistent with that belief.

We should all take pride in the fact that OHC is involved in housing nearly 340,000 tenants in more than 121,000 rent-geared-to-income units across this province. This represents about 10 per cent of all the rental housing stock in Ontario. Subsidies on those units amount to about \$1 million a day.

CONVERT-TO-RENT PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I would also like to announce that we are making available \$12.6 million in additional funding under Ontario's convert-to-rent program to generate 1,800 more moderate-cost rental units across the province. The program provides 15-year, interest-free loans of \$7,000 per unit to assist in the conversion of nonresidential buildings such as vacant factories, schools and warehouses into much needed rental accommodation.

We already have sufficient applications to meet our initial target of 2,600 units, an allocation set just 22 months ago when the program was launched.

I am pleased to report that convert-to-rent is now working in more than 200 municipalities. The total program funding now amounts to more than \$30 million for a total of 4,400 apartment units. Today's allocation means an estimated 3,900 years of work.

Convert-to-rent has made a positive impact in many communities, from a former shoe factory being transformed into a 48-unit apartment complex in Penetanguishene to the former Welland County General Hospital in Welland being converted into a 38-unit apartment building. People are becoming more aware that there is a feasible way of converting underutilized or unutilized assets into revenue-producing housing. The program is helping many individuals put their property to better use while providing much needed rental housing. It is encouraging the creative use of both buildings and land.

One reason for convert-to-rent's success is that municipalities, to their credit, have shown support by being flexible in the zoning process. Almost everyone shares in the benefits of convert-to-rent. Moderately priced rental housing is made available, neighbourhoods are improved and there are work opportunities in construction and renovation.

GREAT LAKES WATER DIVERSION

Hon. Mr. Harris: It will come as no surprise to the members of the House that the Great Lakes

are one of Ontario's most valuable natural resources, vital to the wellbeing of this province. Because of this, Ontario, together with Quebec and the eight Great Lakes states, yesterday joined in signing a charter of principles aimed at protecting the Great Lakes from the threat of large-scale water diversions and general overuse.

The Great Lakes Charter was signed on February 9, 1985, by Quebec and the eight states. While the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) was unable to attend the ceremony at that time, it has always been clear that this government fully supports the charter and its aims.

The charter is a result of a task force formed in 1983 with representatives from the two provinces and eight states. The purpose of the task force was to evaluate the ability of current institutional frameworks to resist Great Lakes water diversions and to recommend appropriate means to protect and conserve the water resource.

I would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of this charter to Ontario. Managing and conserving water in the Great Lakes basin will become increasingly important over the next two decades. The predicted higher consumption by the traditional user groups, along with the increasingly critical water supply problems in certain southern and western states, poses a serious threat to the ecological balance within the basin.

Any significant diversion or increase in consumption from the Great Lakes basin would have a serious economic and ecological impact on Ontario. A drop of even one inch in the water level of the lakes would substantially reduce the generating capacity of hydroelectric plants and would cost the shipping industry millions of dollars in lost revenue.

As well, it would very seriously affect the tourism industry, recreational boating, commercial and sport fishing and wetland areas, and, of course, water level fluctuations have an impact on water for industrial and domestic use.

The charter addresses these problems by providing a regional mechanism to prevent diversions out of the Great Lakes basin. It also allows all participants to develop regional planning strategies on a state-provincial level to reduce consumption and protect the Great Lakes ecosystem.

2:20 p.m.

It is true that Ontario already has the authority to prevent diversions and to monitor water withdrawals under the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act and the Ontario Water Resources Act. However, this authority only covers such actions within this province.

For the first time, the charter will give us access to information on how water is used by the Great Lakes states. It will provide us with an early warning system for possible actions injurious to Ontario, such as increasing consumptive uses and proposed diversions.

Our Futures in Water conference, held in Toronto last June, focused public attention on the serious implications of the growing demand for Great Lakes water. The charter acts upon those concerns by guaranteeing formal, basin-wide co-operation.

This government has already demonstrated a firm commitment to protecting Ontario's Great Lakes water resource. The signing of the Great Lakes Charter will give us a further tool to meet that commitment.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Hon. Mr. Pope: The case of young Adam, the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Obert, has raised a great deal of concern among the public and members of this assembly. I share that concern very deeply and I can now advise the House about the legal situation in this case at the present time.

My senior crown law officers and the official guardian and his senior officials have explored a number of legal possibilities in this matter. As a result of advice received by the official guardian's office, I can advise the House that Adam's proposed visit to his father will not take place this weekend, which I understand to be the unanimous consensus of all family members.

Instead, the official guardian will monitor a process of mediation under the direction of a prominent child psychiatrist who has been seeing Adam now for some months. I understand it has been agreed that there will be no visits by Adam to his father while this process of mediation continues.

The official guardian continues to monitor the situation very closely, particularly with respect to the wishes expressed by Adam, and will continue to explore avenues to resolve these issues. As there is no immediate question of a visit by Adam to his father, I prefer to make no further comment on this case which might jeopardize any of the processes now being undertaken or contemplated.

JUDGE'S RESIGNATION

Hon. Mr. Pope: At this time, I wish to place before the Legislature the following matter.

I have received the resignation from Lloyd Hendrikson, a provincial court judge of the criminal division, city of Windsor, county of Essex. The resignation from the bench is effective immediately and I have formally notified the Lieutenant Governor, who has accepted his resignation.

SUPPORT AND CUSTODY ORDERS

Hon. Mr. Pope: I wish to announce to the members of the House that this afternoon I will be introducing two bills dealing with the subject of enforcement of support and custody orders. These bills are companion pieces of legislation to Bill 1, the Family Law Act.

One of the bills will be called the Support and Custody Orders Enforcement Act and will create a new office within the Ministry of the Attorney General to enforce support and custody orders free of charge for the benefit of those entitled to support or custody.

The bill implements the recommendations of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada and the Federal-Provincial Committee on Enforcement of Support and Custody Orders. Under the bill, all support orders made in Ontario will be registered automatically on a computerized system designed to monitor payments under the order and issue default notices if the order falls in arrears.

The ministry's enforcement office will have the capability of tracing defaulting spouses, instructing court officials to issue enforcement processes, such as garnishment of wages or seizure and sale of property, and representing a support creditor in court if it is necessary to summon a defaulter to appear before the court.

For custody orders, the office will act at the request of a person entitled to custody and will search for a missing child and take all legal steps necessary to obtain the return of the child to the person entitled to custody.

In effect, the bill places the ministry's enforcement officers in the shoes of the person entitled to support or custody under a court order and allows them to take all steps in the enforcement of the order that the individual could take. The office will take the financial burden of instituting enforcement off the shoulders of support creditors and persons entitled to custody and will provide them with the assurance that their orders will be enforced promptly and effectively at no cost to them.

The office will be given access to both government and private sector address records to locate a defaulting spouse and will have access,

under recently introduced federal legislation, to the federal government's information banks. The office will have reciprocal arrangements with similar offices in other provinces and territories of Canada and, it is hoped, its counterparts in the United States and other countries.

The second bill I plan to introduce this afternoon amends the Creditors' Relief Act to give a creditor under a support order priority over all other judgement debts owed by the same debtor to the extent of one year's arrears at the current rate of payment.

The bill also contains technical provisions respecting the means of paying out-of-court proceeds received under garnishments issued by the provincial court, family division, and the provincial court, civil division.

The legislation implements recommendations of the Ontario Law Reform Commission, the Uniform Law Conference of Canada and the Federal-Provincial Committee on Enforcement of Support and Custody Orders, all of whom proposed that support creditors should have priority over ordinary judgement creditors.

The members of this House will agree that these two bills are much-needed measures to provide economic security for family members who must rely on a support order as one of the principal means, if not the only means, of providing food and shelter. I look forward to what I am sure will be all-party support for these measures.

EQUALITY RIGHTS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Pope: As I mentioned in introducing the Equality Rights Statute Law Amendment Act, 1985, a further charter implementation initiative is major reform of the law relating to personal names. This reform is carried out by three bills I will introduce today: the Change of Name Act, 1985; the Vital Statistics Amendment Act, 1985; and the Children's Law Reform Amendment Act, 1985.

C'est un privilège et un grand honneur de proposer l'adoption de la Loi sur le changement de nom, et en anglais et en français. C'est la première fois, je crois, que le gouvernement de l'Ontario propose une loi dans les deux langues, exception faite des règles de procédure civile, qui sont des règlements.

L'adoption simultanée dans les deux langues fera que les deux versions, la française comme l'anglaise, auront force de loi. Depuis quelques années, les lois adoptées en anglais ont été traduites en français suite à leur adoption. Dans le cas d'un conflit, la version anglaise prévalait. L'adoption d'une loi dans les deux langues assurera l'égalité des deux versions. Quel meilleur début que de voir cette loi en particulier adoptée dans les deux langues, car il n'y a rien que nous tenons plus à coeur que notre nom et notre langue.

Because of the unique importance each person attaches to his or her name, it is the objective of government to protect personal choice to the maximum extent possible while having regard to the need for the integrity of public record-keeping. Particularly in the multicultural society we promote in Ontario, we must ensure, in the words of the Charter of Rights, that our laws "preserve and enhance" the many diverse cultural traditions that make up this province. We can no longer impose the cultural practices of one part of the population upon all others.

The bills have been developed jointly with the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, which will eventually assume administration of the Change of Name Act. Many of the provisions are based on recommendations by the Ontario Law Reform Commission.

In addition to the choices they have now, parents will be able to give their children the same surname as the mother.

Notre disposition permet qu'un enfant reçoive le nom qui respecte son patrimoine culturel, ethnique ou religieux.

Upon or during marriage, each spouse will have equal rights to retain his or her surname, to change his or her spouse's surname or to take a hyphenated surname. In conformity with the Charter of Rights and the Human Rights Code, these rights will be available to a man and woman if they file a declaration that they are living together in a conjugal relationship.

Les procédures judiciaires pour le changement de nom, actuellement lourdes et coûteuses, seront remplacées par une simple demande au registrateur général. Ces procédures existent dans la plupart des provinces depuis plusieurs années.

In recognizing the rights of individuals to choose and change their names with minimum government intervention, we also recognize the public need to verify a person's identity. Therefore, the registrar general will make available a change-of-name index, through which all name changes can be simply traced. However, confidentiality will be retained for victims and witnesses of crime who may be in danger.

D'autres provinces ont proposé des modifications à la Loi sur le changement de nom afin de respecter la Charte, mais je crois que les réformes que nous proposons sont les plus complètes, les plus compréhensives et les plus progressistes au Canada. Encore plus important, c'est que la réforme représente une contribution importante à l'égalité et à la liberté de la personne pour le peuple ontarien.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: I see the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), the Minister of Natural Resources, is entitled to change hats; so I will call on him as Minister of Energy.

BULK ELECTRICITY SYSTEM

Hon. Mr. Harris: I would like to report to the Legislature today on activities concerning Ontario Hydro's plans for Ontario's electricity system.

On November 1, 1984, while Minister of Energy, the member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) wrote to the chairman of Ontario Hydro to advise him of the government's position on the expansion of the power system in Ontario. That position is straightforward. All. cost-effective alternatives to system expansion should be employed at the earliest time and to the maximum extent possible. Ontario Hydro should contemplate expansion of the bulk electricity system only when this is clearly the most attractive alternative, from both economic and environmental perspectives.

The former minister's letter also informed the chairman that the Ministry of Energy was developing policy options for the growth of the electrical system into the 1990s and beyond. Subsequently, an information paper entitled Planning the Electricity Supply System was released. This paper outlined the process involved in planning the growth of this very important service and described the major issues to be addressed.

Today I have provided to the chairman of Ontario Hydro, and am releasing, a policy paper entitled New Directions for Meeting Tomorrow's Electricity Needs.

I am pleased to note that the chairman and the president of Ontario Hydro have recently indicated in major statements an open and flexible approach towards planning the development of the bulk electricity system. They have already launched the corporation on a broad review of alternatives that may entail significant departures from the past.

The paper I am releasing today sets out the government's perspectives on these issues. It

indicates to Ontario Hydro what the province's priorities will be in determining the shape of our electrical system in the post-Darlington era and it expands on the position outlined in my colleague's earlier letter.

Several important points are made.

Ontario is a growing province with a manufacturing-based economy that has benefited greatly from the availability of low-cost, safe and reliable electricity.

Ontario Hydro's committed construction program will ensure that we continue to have adequate supplies of electricity for the next decade. Throughout this period, Ontario will be seeking to obtain the maximum benefits that can be derived from our current investments in nuclear generating plant and other facilities.

In the future, we expect electricity to become an even more important contributor to our economy. This expanded role, coupled with the ageing of some of our electricity supply facilities and the long lead times required to develop new supplies, requires that we plan now to ensure an adequate supply of electricity in the long term.

Future planning should address three major questions: How much electricity will Ontario need in the 1990s and beyond? How can we best provide for this need? If new generating or transmission capacity is required, what type of facilities should be constructed?

Ontario Hydro's mandate is to supply electricity to Ontario consumers in a safe, reliable way and at the lowest feasible cost over the long term. In looking at ways to meet the province's future electricity needs, Ontario Hydro will be expected to examine the full range of alternatives. Special attention must be given to conservation and load management programs as substitutes for system expansion. Attention should also be given to cogeneration, privately financed conventional projects, purchases from neighbouring utilities and the refurbishing and redevelopment of existing facilities.

The economic use of these alternatives will strengthen the contribution of electricity to this province's economy and provide greater flexibility in adapting to our future electricity needs.

Improving the environmental performance of the electricity system is an essential goal of Ontario Hydro's planning. Ontario Hydro must develop plans that will minimize the harmful effects arising from the bulk generation or transmission of electricity in Ontario.

As well, the financial requirements and electricity rate implications of any plan will be extensively scrutinized by government. Ontario

Hydro will make its future plans available for public review and comment.

The primary object of the plan will be to ensure that Ontario consumers continue to have available, over the long term, a reliable, clean, secure and cost-effective electricity supply.

ORAL QUESTIONS

FEDERAL BUDGET

Mr. Eakins: I would have liked to have asked my question of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Bennett), but I notice he just left the chamber. In his absence, I will direct my question to the Treasurer.

I would like to know if the Treasurer is supportive of the budget brought in by the federal Tories in Ottawa, wherein the only reference made to the tourism sector is the delay of the imposition of the increase in the gasoline tax until after Labour Day to avoid any impact on the tourist season. This in itself is evidence of the federal Tories' attitude that we have a tourism season only during the summer time.

Is the Treasurer in agreement with that approach and is she in support of that budget?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Since the Minister of Tourism and Recreation is here, I wonder if the honourable member wants to ask him the question.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: In relation to the Honourable Tom McMillan's support of the federal budget relating to the tax on gasoline, the honourable member will recall that there was a decrease in the price of gasoline of 0.7 of one cent and that any increase in the price of gasoline was deferred until September in some recognition of the tourist operators in Ontario.

One has to look at the much broader aspect of the budget and what the federal government has been doing to try to promote greater opportunity for tourism into this country. The Honourable Mr. McMillan has been saying he believes we have to be much more aggressive in marketing ourselves, not only in this country but also in other jurisditions.

There are other aspects of the budget that are very positive in the field of tourism development.

Mr. Eakins: As the minister in charge of the largest provincial sector of Canada's tourism industry, was he consulted by his federal colleagues prior to the finalizing of the budget? If so, was he aware of the deteriorating tourism deficit in Canada, which was \$1.5 billion just in the first three months of 1985 and which exceeds

the 1984 figure, a year that was one of the worst on record?

Given this disappointing start to our 1985 tourist season, how can he, as the minister who will face the largest portion of that deficit, possibly support that federal budget, and what does he plan to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Tourism still has an opportunity to grow in this province; the member knows that very well. Last year, there was more than \$7 billion of direct expenditures in this province from tourism, or a total of \$9 billion if he takes into account all the spinoff industries that come from the field of tourism. In this province, 345,000 people have their employment as a direct result of the opportunities offered by tourism in Ontario.

I spoke in this House just on Tuesday about the expansion of opportunities that we see in the Quebec, New England and New York markets. We have said clearly we are expanding the budget opportunities to advertise; that has already been looked after.

I indicated that last year we had a trial opportunity of advertising and promoting in the Boston market. We opened a tourist office there and appointed a representative. Mr. Speaker, you know very well, as does the member asking the question, that the great opportunity today is in the New York state and New England markets.

I emphasized the importance of this province being much more aggressive in marketing Ontario in Quebec. Quebeckers, like Ontarians and other Canadians, are finding the exchange rate in the United States a discouraging factor and they are looking for an opportunity to go somewhere that is less expensive. They find Ontario a very interesting place to come to. We are advertising very extensively in Quebec, both in English and in French, because we realize anglophones and francophones are looking for a golden opportunity in their own country to find new opportunities.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Eakins: Speaking on the impact of tourism on the economy of this province and of the government's investments in tourism in this province, could the minister update the House on the impact of the \$45-million investment in Minaki Lodge, which he has described as the jewel in the crown of Ontario tourism? Also, could we be brought up to date on what we may expect from the proposed investment of \$5 million in Deerhurst Inn which was announced today?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I am delighted with that question. We sit here in this part of this great province looking at the north and continue to say the north has an entitlement to expand and develop its employment opportunities.

This party and this government realize that one of the great opportunities in the north is to develop and expand tourism. I make no apologies to the House or to the taxpayers of the province for the investment we made in Minaki Lodge.

Last year, Minaki operated at an 86 per cent occupancy rate, which is very good for any hotel operation. Indeed, it has become a magnet, drawing people from Ontario and other parts of the northwestern United States into that part of our province. I make no apologies.

We go about spending money in this part of Ontario on congress centres, convention centres, Ontario Place, the Ontario Science Centre, Roy Thomson Hall—you mention it—and it is perfectly okay. Let me strongly suggest, as a member from eastern Ontario, the investment Ontario made in Minaki Lodge is valuable and it helps tremendously the economy in northwestern Ontario.

We have been involved with Deerhurst-

Mr. Speaker: That seems like a very complete answer.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I understood there were two parts to the question. The member was looking for an answer on Minaki, which I think I have explained to him in fairly extensive detail. The other question related to Deerhurst.

We have been looking at Deerhurst for a number of years. We have had other investments in that part of the province in that operation, and it has been very valuable. Deerhurst is considered to be one of the outstanding resort operations in this province and in the rest of Canada. We have been working on this expansion program for some time. The Canada-Ontario agreement is the one under which we are extending funding to Deerhurst, federally and provincially.

HOMEMAKER PROGRAM

Mr. Cordiano: My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. The recent throne speech promised significant new funds for a homemaker program to increase services available at home for elderly and disabled adults. The obvious intent is to attempt to move away from institutionalization and allow senior citizens to stay in their homes. At the same time, the partial deindexing of old age security in the federal budget removes literally billions of

dollars from seniors' pockets over the next four years and will force many of them to abandon the dream of remaining in their homes.

Is this an example of the co-ordinated federalprovincial approach we were told last September we could expect to see?

Hon. Mr. Eves: I will have a detailed statement tomorrow with respect to the homemaker program.

Regarding the federal budget, the member does not really blame this government for any measures that may have been taken with respect to senior citizens. He can easily see the services we plan for seniors in Ontario in our throne speech.

Mr. Cordiano: Home care programs for seniors were promised before, in the Ontario throne speeches in 1971, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984. In each case, the promise was broken. On July 26, 1984, Brian Mulroney promised to protect the sacred principle of universality of old age pensions and to reinstate and maintain complete indexing of old age pensions to the actual cost of living as of January 1, 1985. Obviously that promise, too, has been broken.

With that sort of track record, how do Conservatives expect senior citizens in Ontario to take their promises seriously?

Hon. Mr. Eves: There already is a chronic home care program in Ontario. It has been in place for many years. We are announcing further initiatives with respect to homemakers and home care. As I say, we will have more details about that tomorrow. With respect to services to senior citizens, I think the record of this government is second to none.

Mr. Cordiano: I have another example of how this government treats seniors. It seems that the Ontario Ministry of Revenue demands a refund of the \$50 annual sales tax grant for seniors from surviving spouses of the recipients, from the estates. If the recipient dies even a single day before the issuing of a cheque, this policy still applies even though the cheques are issued near the end of the year for which the grant applies and even though the recipient, if he or she dies in that month, will have incurred most of the annual sales tax expenses the grant is intended to offset.

Can the minister explain and justify this insensitive and inequitable policy of his own government?

Hon. Mr. Eves: With all due respect, I do not see what that supplementary question has to do

with the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Premier.

Mr. Elston: Which one?

Mr. Rae: They all looked up. It is a curious phenomenon. I think they are all waiting. They all look sharper than usual today. It is quite an array.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: We are looking for your blue suits. You had so many of them during the election campaign.

Mr. Speaker: I am waiting for the question.

Mr. Rae: Are you running now? Are you waiting until next week? I do not know.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: If I am, you are in trouble.

PATRONAGE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask the Premier a question about the number of order-in-council appointments that have been made recently. I practically drove my car into a hydro pole when I heard the Treasurer (Miss Stephenson) say that 999 out of 1,000 appointments were made with nobody even knowing what party the people were members of. I mean, really; that program is broadcast while people are driving to work. She has to be very careful what she says. It really is not fair to the drivers of Ontario, let alone anybody else.

The week of May 8 there were 64 order-in-council appointments, the week of May 15 there were 75, the week of May 30 there were 64 and the week of June 6 there were 129, which is a higher number. We do not have the numbers for this week. If we take 129 appointments made last week, that will be an annual total of 6,708 order-in-council appointments, which would be an orgy by any other name.

Can the Premier explain the sudden ballooning to 129 just last week?

Hon. F. S. Miller: We simply fill the positions as they become vacant.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Rae: I cannot understand the lack of applause.

The Treasurer made the statement today that these appointments were all made without any regard to party membership or affiliation of any kind. Could the Premier explain why there seems to be such a preponderance of one party? The local registrar in Brantford, a senior delegate at the last convention; the assistant crown attorney in Sarnia, an alternate delegate at the last convention; a reappointed member of the Social

Assistance Review Board-these are not for free, these positions.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Reappointed.

Mr. Rae: Reappointed. A new appointment to the Ontario Film Review Board. A tough job; somebody has to do it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Do you want the job? Mr. Rae: No. I am quite happy where I am, thank you very much.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We are at this point in question period waiting for a supplementary.

Mr. Rae: I will compare my life expectancy to the Premier's any day.

David Lacey from Etobicoke, a senior delegate from York West and I understand, if I am not mistaken, a former campaign manager of the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Mr. Leluk).

Can the Premier explain why these appointments show such a preponderance of memberships in the Tory party?

Hon. F. S. Miller: To the leader of the social alliance party—by the way, people are asking me about all my options next Tuesday, and it suddenly dawned on me that one of my options is to suggest the member for York South be leader.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: If, indeed, that party is going to have 35 to 40 seats after the next election, which of these are moving over there? I keep worrying about that.

In all seriousness, since I have been leader we have been broadening the appointments geographically, ethnically and by sex. I am even told we asked the member's party for names.

Mr. Nixon: I hesitate to get into this little melee, but would the Premier explain to the House why Frank Drea has been going around town with an order in council in his hip pocket, dated two months ago, for an appointment to the Ontario Municipal Board instead of giving us the advantage of his service over these many weeks? Is he waiting for something better?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have no comment on that.

Mr. Rae: Can the Premier explain the wording of two order-in-council appointments for Mr. Michael Perik and Mr. John Howard Tory-the one for Mr. Tory dated May 15, 1985, the one for Mr. Perik dated May 23, 1985–stating that Mr. Perik be appointed associate secretary of cabinet, special projects, with the rank and status of deputy minister for the period effective from the third day of May 1985 to the

11th day of February 1988, and that Mr. Tory be appointed, again with the rank and status of deputy minister, for the period effective from the third day of May 1985 to the 28th day of February 1987?

Can the Premier explain the legal implications for us not only of the rank and status of deputy minister but also of the two-year and three-year contract periods that appear to be provided for in the orders?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Both of those gentlemen had the rank and status of a deputy minister before March 25; both of them resigned and both were reappointed. The term for an order in council for those types of appointments is normally three years; that is the term for those appointments.

PROTECTION OF WORKERS

Mr. Rae: I have another question for the Premier with regard to the two worlds of Ontario about which we are now becoming more aware each day. I want to make it very clear to the Premier that we on this side have been pressing for a long time for decent severance pay arrangements for contract employees in this House and for constituency assistants. We have no objection whatsoever to proposals that, we understand, are being made with respect to severance arrangements for those employees of the Conservative Party or Conservative ministers who are facing the prospect of unemployment after June 18.

My question relates to how other people in Ontario must be feeling when they realize they do not have the same kind of protection themselves. Some months ago, I wrote to the Premier with regard to the situation of cleaners at the Toronto-Dominion Centre who face a situation where their contract was changed but they had to negotiate a completely new contract with a new contractor. Most of them were rehired, but they were rehired under the following conditions:

They previously had Ontario health insurance plan benefits; they lost their OHIP benefits. They previously had a drug plan; they lost their drug plan. They previously had sick leave; they lost their sick leave. Six of the workers, including the one worker who was the most active in pressing for decent conditions for these workers, Mr. John Souza, are still without work. Six of them are window cleaners.

As the Premier makes arrangements for members of his own party in these last few days, will he not also take steps to make arrangements for other people in this province who do not have,

and will not have, the same kind of protection? Why should there be one law for John Tory and another law for John Souza in Ontario?

Hon. F. S. Miller: If one is talking of unjust dismissal, which I presume the member is talking about in the cases he referred to, he will notice we took steps in the speech from the throne to remedy that. On the other side of the coin, there are very few jobs in society that contain similar risks to those of assistants to the member, to me and our colleagues in the Liberal Party. In many cases, their tenure is totally dependent upon our tenure. It is on that basis that this assistance was given.

It is also interesting to note that at the federal level, where governments have changed more frequently, there has been a recognized program giving such contract employees certain priority rights for acceptance into the civil service. Those are not possible at this time in Ontario.

Mr. Rae: If it is not possible, there is one party responsible for that, and that is the governing party in Ontario. Let the record show that. We pressed for that and got nowhere.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary question.

Mr. Rae: Nowhere in the throne speech is severance pay mentioned. Nowhere in the throne speech is changing the law on severance pay mentioned, and nowhere is this problem affecting contracted-out work mentioned.

Does the Premier not feel there is a perception of a double standard at work here? There is going to be one standard that affects people who can be taken care of by the governing party in its last days and another standard for people who do not have the same protection. If the Premier wants to talk about taking risks, I suspect the people who clean the windows of office towers 60 or 70 storeys high are taking far greater risks every day with their lives than the people who are working for the Tory party of Ontario.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I do not think the question was the risk of the job physically. We are talking about the tenure of the job or its degree of security. The member knows that from time to time we give very serious thought to that. Unjust dismissal remains the major problem for employees of that sort.

3 p.m.

Mr. Rae: The Premier has many occasions to be speaking to the people responsible for the management of the Toronto-Dominion Centre. All he has to do is pick up a phone and see if steps can be taken to provide some work for these six people who have been affected by this changeover.

I am asking him at this time whether he is going to be taking steps. No one on this side of the House and no one in our party begrudges him taking those steps. We argue they should have been taken years ago to provide for contract workers. Will he also take steps to see that jobs are found for these six workers who have been without jobs, whose families are depending on their jobs and who face enormous insecurity in their work because of this problem of contracting out?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I will be glad to get more details on it. If anything can be done, I will be glad to do it.

AGRICULTURAL FUNDING

Mr. Reycraft: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Last Thursday the Ontario Federation of Agriculture held an emergency meeting to discuss the federal budget's blatant lack of promised initiatives to the agricultural sector. The OFA noted that the budget's agricultural inadequacies were a shock to the federation and for all Ontario farmers in view of the industry's legitimate needs and because of their trust that the federal Conservatives would at least follow through on their most basic and simple election promises.

In addition to the absence of any new programs, the share of deficit reduction to be burdened on farmers by a six-year, \$50-million annual cut to the Department of Agriculture's budget indicates the federal Tories have quickly forgotten that any problems exist in agriculture.

Given the particularly serious economic hardships in the farming sector, has the minister been in consultation with his federal counterpart to remind him that farmers are in trouble, to remind him of the promises that were made and, most specifically, to attempt to halt any cuts in the Department of Agriculture's budget?

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: I have talked to Mr. Wise on a number of occasions in the last few weeks on a great many issues that are of current interest in agriculture. One of those issues we discussed was the continuing economic situation in agriculture and the number of factors related to it. I expressed our long-standing support of the agribond program and discussed many other aspects of mutual interest at that time.

Mr. D. W. Smith: Another important area of concern to the farmers was the federal budget's plan to drop the primary industry's levy offset program. The end of this program means an

immediate rise in farmers' fuel costs of two cents a litre. With the critical condition of the farming industry in Ontario, the minister must realize the estimated \$9-million cost of this fuel price increase is going to drive farmers further into debt and that for a large number it will be the final blow, driving them out of business.

I must ask the minister, once again, what representation he has made to his federal counterpart to prevent the end of this fuel tax rebate program.

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: I repeat that in our discussions we have discussed a number of issues with the federal government that are impacting very significantly on the agricultural industry here in Ontario. As a government we will continue to do everything in our power to assist Ontario producers with the many programs we have. Our main thrust is to give them the best possible expertise in good production and financial management.

As for details of the various issues which are in conflict between the provincial and federal government, and there are a number at this time in agriculture, we will continue to discuss those issues with as much strength as we possibly can to make Ontario's representation very clear.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Ms. Gigantes: I have a question for the Attorney General. The Attorney General has given us a statement on the Adam Rounds case in which he promises he will inform us about the legal situation, but in fact he does not do so in that statement.

Has he taken steps to determine what went wrong in this case? Does he have a sense now that he or his successor will be able to institute some effective pattern to respect and protect the rights of children, especially in a case as sensitive as this one?

Hon. Mr. Pope: In this case I am satisfied that the decisions that were made were based on factual interpretations. I realize that the public response to the final decision on this case was one of disagreement. I have explored with my senior officials all the legal avenues that are available to me as Attorney General and I have been made aware of some of the courses of action that could be taken.

But in view of the fact that, from information we have received, all parties to this matter have agreed to postpone the visitation and allow a mediation process to proceed, I do not think that mediation process with the child psychiatrist should take place in an atmosphere in which there would be a threat of litigation by someone from outside the family unit that would further complicate the matter.

Ms. Gigantes: I do not believe the minister answered my question, which was how did we arrive at this state of affairs.

I would like to ask him a further question. Would he personally undertake to speak to each of the officials who may at some future date be involved in the case of Adam Rounds—and I mean his ministry officials, officials of the Ministry of Community and Social Services and/or the local children's aid society—and attempt to ensure that they understand the significance and the importance of ascertaining that any moves they make not jeopardize the relationship of Adam Rounds to his maternal grandparents and his ability to live in his home with them?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I agree with the honourable member that the first priority in this case is to re-establish a normal home environment for this child. Two days ago I asked representatives of the Ministry of Community and Social Services and of the Ministry of the Attorney General to consult with agencies in the area. I expressed my concern about the matter and asked for advice on possible legal remedies available to the crown.

I can promise the member I will personally pursue the case with all ministries of the government and all agencies with the best interests of the child as the paramount concern.

3:10 p.m.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. During the election the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) made several statements about the slowness in the construction of the Queensway in Ottawa-Carleton.

Mr. Mancini: Just give us 42 years.

Mr. Sterling: You are going to have to answer soon.

I would like the minister to indicate what the present commitment of this government is to completing this work as soon as possible.

Hon. Mr. McCague: Before the commencement of the Queensway reconstruction a schedule was worked out with the officials of the region of Ottawa-Carleton. The project is on schedule. I do not see any reason why that should vary.

Mr. Sterling: Can the minister assure us that work is being done as quickly as possible—

Mr. Kerrio: That is what he said.

Mr. Sterling: – and whether it is possible to pick up the schedule and issue more contracts at this time and do it in a safe manner?

Hon. Mr. McCague: As I said to the honourable member, I would like to give him that assurance, but the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) over there is talking as though he were shortly going to be the one to whom that question should be asked. Maybe I could refer it to him. However, I will not do that.

We have been asked not to proceed too quickly with that contract because of congestion that might be caused if we were doing too many contracts at one time. Too many off ramps and on ramps would be closed. There would be disruption of the tourist industry and so forth. We are on schedule. I presume that will continue and that everybody in the region will be happy.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Mr. Speaker: The member for Parkdale. Interjections.

Mr. Ruprecht: No, this is not for the Minister of Education (Mr. Grossman).

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Ruprecht: I have a question for the Premier of this province on his government's shredding policy.

An hon. member: Are you going to answer that, Larry?

Mr. Ruprecht: I said the Premier; that minister has to hold his horses.

Can the Premier gives us assurances that no documents are being removed from working files without the knowledge of our transition team? Can he tell us what his guidelines are for shreddable or removable material? For instance, are cabinet decisions shreddable or removable and what about decisions that provide the rationale for policy decisions? What are the criteria?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I suggest the member might ask his leader. I believe we have defined the types of material that would be taken by us as members should we need to leave and the categories of documents that would remain in the keeping of the Cabinet Office. The rest of them are matters that will be in the files of ministries. There is no shredding policy.

Mr. Ruprecht: We understand that the instructions given to civil servants regarding the removal or destruction of documents are currently given verbally. Since we have to protect the

civil service from possibly receiving instructions that are misunderstood, can we have assurances from the Premier that the instructions will be given in writing?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The accord I saw was in writing.

NORTHERN MEDICAL FUNDING

Mr. Martel: In the absence of the Minister of Health (Mr. Andrewes), I would like to direct a question to the Premier.

Is the Premier aware that Dr. Corringham, the oncologist in Sudbury, has resigned effective August 1, 1985? He stopped seeing new patients effective June 1. He has had 500 patients since starting work in Sudbury in August, when it was predicted he would have 300 in the first year. The work load he has is apparently already equivalent to that of about five or six doctors at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Since he has asked for the assistance of two more oncologists, is the minister prepared to provide the funding necessary to obtain those two doctors for Sudbury now?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The answer is yes. If the honourable member looks again into our policy platform during the election and again at the throne speech, he will see we even have grants to bring specialists such as oncologists to northern Ontario because we believe firmly in the need to prevent trips to the south. That is why the centre was built there. The member knows that. The member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) worked very hard to get it there, and we responded to that.

Mr. Martel: I might say to my friend who just sat down that he will recall an exchange he and I had here 10 years ago over a cancer centre for Sudbury. I remember that minister then. The Premier can say that about my friend the member for Sudbury, but there have been a lot of other people more involved than he or I or the Premier.

Since this doctor who is treating cancer has resigned, there are going to be two interviews on Sunday, one with a doctor from England and one with a doctor from Africa. I want the Premier's assurance that if both those doctors decide to stay, this government will put the money up with no equivocation.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes.

DETOUR LAKE MINE

Mr. Pierce: The question I have is addressed to the Minister of Northern Affairs. Does this minister know if the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) was really shocked and dismayed in the announced closure of the Detour Lake

mine, as indicated in the Northland Post, and if there is any truth in the headlines of the Post?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I was made aware of the honourable member's comments just about two hours ago. I took it upon myself to call the chief executive officer of Detour Lake mine and was informed that they had a very ambitious \$10-million development program under way and it would be on for the next 18 months. There is no foundation and there is no truth to this statement at all. The Detour Lake mine is not closing.

I would say to the member for Cochrane North—and I am sorry he is not in the House—that he should apologize to the workers at Detour Lake and his riding.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Ms. Caplan: I have a question for the Minister of Skills Development. With much fanfare, this government announced the Ontario youth employment program. Young people were to be given hope of employment in this program.

As a result of a constituent's request, I tried to determine the guidelines and criteria for qualifying for this program. Despite last year's promise by the government of a one-stop approach to getting information, my office had to make 15 phone calls. This morning, after requesting the information on June 6 and after call number 16, this brochure, which my constituent had in his possession at the time of the inquiry, finally arrived.

Perhaps the minister can simply tell me whether, under the program, students of pharmacy are eligible for employment in drug stores.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: The Ontario youth employment program will again employ approximately 53,000 students across the province and will be implemented in due course. If the throne speech of this government is passed, as I hope it will be, we will be announcing more employment under that program. I would suggest to the honourable member that the students to which she refers would certainly be eligible. Perhaps her constituent, as did 53,000 other students across the province, should have applied as soon as the program was announced.

3:20 p.m.

Ms. Caplan: It is obvious that instead of creating jobs, this government has created a bureaucratic mess. A recent survey of Metro Toronto community colleges indicated only 13 per cent of 1,200 companies even knew of the existence of these programs and that they could hire youths.

Why has the minister implemented a program that requires applicants and employers to deal with reams of red tape and as a result is both unfair to young people and to potential employers? Why are students restricted to finding summer employment in their field of interest, and is there any recourse for someone who has been denied unjustly?

Hon. Mr. Gillies: I reject utterly the member's contention that these programs are a maze of red tape or inaccessible. This government will be offering, this summer, more jobs for more students than in any previous year in our history. The jobs are accessible, and if the member has a grievance with a particular application, I would be pleased if she would bring it to my attention.

Ms. Gigantes: Has the minister ever tried phoning his own program? Dare I suggest he do it?

Hon. Mr. Gillies: I would say to the member for Ottawa Centre that I have been accused of many things over the years but never of phoning myself. I would further say to the honourable member that I will endeavour to do so next Tuesday or Wednesday.

GRAIN FINANCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM

Mr. Ramsay: I would like to address my question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food with regard to the McKinlay insolvency.

Since the meeting he referred to in his response to my question on Friday between the commodity groups involved in this mess and Ministry of Agriculture and Food officials has taken place, and since he has received in writing the response of these commodity groups as to their opinion of this situation, copies of which I have, will the minister now authorize emergency funding to the Grain Financial Protection Board in order that this board can fulfil its promises to the farmers involved in this program?

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: The written positions of two of the three boards involved have arrived. The corn producers favour funding this year and into continuing years. The soybean board favours funding this year but will not take a position on what it wishes to happen in future years until it goes back to its membership.

The position of the feed and grain dealers' association has not yet arrived, but I understand it has concerns about basis contracts being covered. I understand we may get requests from them to have two sorts of agreements, one for dealers who want to deal in basis contracts and

one for those who want to deal without the basis contracts.

When I get all these written requests in, we will look at them and make some decision over the next few days. At this moment, the situation is not entirely clear. As I said earlier, as far as I am concerned, it is enabling legislation to allow the industry to have whatever it wants, if it is prepared to pay for the various methods of marketing grains. Until the preferred methods are clear, it is difficult to make any quick decisions.

Mr. Ramsay: I point out to the minister that it is not the feed dealers who are the victims in this piece; the farmers in the other two commodity groups are the ones left hanging. Since these farmers are the ones who entered in good faith, and they are the ones hanging on without this money and without any assurance they are going to be repaid, will the minister in the few remaining days of his regime authorize this emergency funding so these farmers will stave off bankruptcy?

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: The grain financial protection program was brought into being with the agreement of all three groups I previously mentioned. If the program is going to be a success, it must have the co-operation of all members of the industry. We are dealing with all members of the industry in a very open and very quick fashion, and when those dealings are completed we will arrive at a decision.

Mr. McGuigan: How can the minister stand up in front of this House and say it is enabling legislation? There is no provision in that legislation for a plebiscite to be taken by producers. It is not enabling legislation, and the minister knows it is not. How could he be listening to the grain and feed dealers when the premiums for this program are paid by the producers?

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. McGuigan: The premiums are not paid by the feed dealers. How can the minister give us such an answer?

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: If the grain industry in this province is going to operate, and operate effectively, it is very clearly going to have to have the co-operation of everybody who is involved. We are trying to arrive at a position where everybody is in some sort of agreement. There is no doubt in my mind that this will be reached. We are certainly not going to react quickly and cause some problems for future development. A decision will be made within the next few days, and I fully expect that decision

will have the general agreement of the people involved.

ONTARIO FINANCES

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) asked a question on Monday and I did not provide the answer on Tuesday because he was not here. He was here earlier today; he is not at this point, but I think I should provide the answer anyway.

He suggested there was no accounting regarding Suncor in the statement I produced on Monday. That certainly is within the statement, because it is within the accounting of the allocation of the Ministry of Energy that the payments made on behalf of the government to the Suncor note are tabulated.

The member for Renfrew North also said, and I will quote his question: "While she is undertaking to inquire after those data, can she also confirm that, as of this weekend, the gross borrowing costs for this \$650-million, 25 per cent interest in Suncor are running in excess of \$325 million?"

That is entirely wrong. To this weekend, the government will have paid, on the basis of a 14.357 per cent instalment note, interest payments and capital payments that total \$150 million.

Mr. Peterson: Will the minister not admit she has neglected to calculate the interest on the other portion, which was not covered by way of a note back to Suncor? She is, albeit inadvertently, misleading this House about the real interest costs. She is calculating only the interest costs directly payable back to Sun US as opposed to the interest on the outstanding balance, the half that was financed out of the consolidated revenue fund.

Would the Treasurer not agree with me that she has inadvertently misled this House and that the net cost is more than \$300 million?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Although I am delighted to see the puppet Premier-in-waiting back in this House, I am sorry he does not apparently understand what the transaction was. One half of the amount of money provided was provided in cash; the other half was funded through the note. It is on the basis of that note, all of which is totally accounted for in the statement, that the government has made payments of \$150 million to date.

3:30 p.m.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mr. Polsinelli: I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr.

Timbrell), but in his absence, since my question deals with freedom of information, I will direct it to the Premier.

In recent years there has been a great deal of controversy surrounding market value assessment of properties, in Metropolitan Toronto in particular. Much of the controversy has been a result of the sheer lack of information which has allowed proponents on both sides of the issue to take hard lines without the data to back them up.

In the past, Liberal members have asked for the release of the Metro-wide impact study that the province commissioned a number of years ago, but this has been refused to date. In the light of the problems caused by lack of information, why has this government refused consistently to release the study? Are they now prepared to do so, in their twilight days?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Here is the minister involved, Mr. Speaker, but I should point out to you that you missed rotation. There was a question on this side, sir.

Mr. Shymko: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: It is my understanding that the Treasurer (Miss Stephenson) was replying to a question, and I think a member on this side should have had a turn and the normal procedure should have been followed. When a cabinet minister answers a question posed by a member of the opposition, I do not understand why that should deprive us of a turn to pose a question.

Mr. Speaker: I have had quite a number of requests for questions and replies to questions today. I was trying to work them in as fairly as possible. I recall that on many occasions in the past—I hope I am correct—it has been done by rotation and generally an answer to a question that had not been answered before was considered to be the same as a question. I could be wrong in that. I will certainly review it and I hope to do better, if that is incorrect.

Mr. Shymko: I appreciate the fairness you have displayed and will continue to display in the order.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: You accepted the question from the member who had just raised it. You had not recognized that man, and it becomes a mockery when you jump from side to side. I suggest you recognize him and then, if you want to go to that member, fine, but let him answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: I will accept the Premier's reply.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I was going to redirect the question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and

Housing or the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Dean). The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is here.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I caught only part of the question as I was on my way to an appointment; I was leaving through the east lobby.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Is my friend totally deflated now? As a former Minister of Health, I might recommend a remedy.

If I correctly understood the honourable member's question, it really is not something that pertains to my ministry. Since it has to do with municipal assessment, the question should be directed to the Minister of Revenue.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If a question is directed to a minister, that minister must redirect. Would the Premier care to redirect?

Hon. F. S. Miller: In the absence of my minister to whom the question should properly go—oh, he is here now, the Minister of Revenue.

Hon. Mr. Dean: I was not sure whether I had the floor or whether a supplementary would be asked first. The answer in simple terms is that it has been the position of the ministry that because there is no consensus among the municipalities in Metro as to how reassessment is to proceed, the impact study will not be released until such consensus emerges.

Mr. Polsinelli: With all due respect to the honourable minister, that is a ridiculous answer. We are asking for information so the local municipal councils can make a determination on market value assessment. How can they make an intelligent determination without the ministry providing them with the information?

Hon. Mr. Dean: I almost answered that in the first part by saying it is incumbent upon the municipalities in Metro to agree on the way in which they wish to proceed.

Mr. Speaker: If I might take just a moment, I was listening very carefully during the question period and a number of members were concerned about the way I was letting some of the questions go on. I did that because this was the first opportunity for some of the new members to ask questions. In the future I will be a little tougher. On some of those, because of tradition, I felt I would let those members go on.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: On behalf of the government, Mr. Speaker, I might say I thought you were quite proper in allowing the questions to go that length. I think that is an acceptable practice.

Mr. Martel: Larry is going to have to get used to asking questions.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

PETITIONS

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. O'Connor: I have the honour to present two petitions, both presented by some citizens of the great city of Brantford and dealing with the separate school funding issue. They read as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to debate the issue of extension of public funding to separate secondary schools prior to implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for people to appear and be heard."

That one bears 20 signatures. The second petition, bearing 174 signatures, reads simply:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to delay implementation of the proposed separate secondary school funding until appropriate, constitutionally acceptable legislation is in place."

3:40 p.m.

Mr. G. I. Miller: I too have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas any action to extend public funding to separate Roman Catholic secondary schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas it is uncertain whether extension would contravene the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"Whereas in democratic societies there is a recognized convention which respects the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters are debated in the Legislative Assembly, with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard before an appropriate committee of the Legislature;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government: "(1) to seek a constitutional referral prior to any implementation to determine whether extension would conflict with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"(2) to debate fully the issue of extension prior to any implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for the people to appear and be heard."

The petition is signed by 175 people representing the employees of the Haldimand Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, district 53, in the region of Haldimand-Norfolk.

Ms. Munro: I would like to present a petition and read it in full.

"I, on behalf of the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Fathers of Confederation in 1867 agreed that in order to have a confederated Canada it was necessary and honourable that the educational rights of separate schools be integrated into the Constitution of Canada; and

"Whereas 12 years of schooling from junior kindergarten to grade 10 are now funded from government grants and separate school taxes, the recent government decision will make it possible to fund a further two grades; and

"Whereas it is the sincere expectation of more than 500,000 students and staff of the separate school system and nearly four million separate school supporters in the province of Ontario that they will not have to suffer any further delay or humiliation on this issue;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to affirm the decision of the government to implement funding for the completion of the separate secondary school system starting in September 1985."

This is signed by Dr. N. A. Mancini, 2188 King Street East in the city of Hamilton, on behalf of 170 people from the city of Hamilton and adjoining municipalities, and on behalf of the following associations: the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, Toronto; the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association, Hamilton-Wentworth unit; the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association, Willowdale; the Ontario Separate School Trustees' Association, Willowdale; and the Metropolitan Separate School Board, 80 Sheppard Avenue. It is dated June 13.

Mr. Elston: I have several petitions. There are three petitions in one form. I will read the first.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition

the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas any action to extend public funding to separate secondary schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas people in a democratic society have a right to be consulted prior to implementation of policies which change long-standing relation-

ships; and

"Whereas there is an understood convention in democratic societies which respects the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters should be debated in the Legislative Assembly with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to debate the issue of extension of public funding to separate secondary schools prior to implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for the people to appear and be heard."

The petitions are signed by seven members from the Lucknow area and about 31 members from the Pine River United Church, both in the

county of Bruce.

I have a petition approximately to the same effect from the great riding of Perth, bearing the signatures of 624 members. I present that on behalf of those members of that riding.

Mr. Barlow: I have six petitions, which all read the same:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas any action to extend public funding to separate Roman Catholic secondary schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas people in a democratic society have a right to be consulted prior to implementation of policies which change long-standing relation-

ships; and

"Whereas there is an understood convention in democratic societies which respects the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters should be debated in the Legislative Assembly with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to debate the issue of extension of public funding to separate secondary schools prior to implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for people to appear and be heard."

There are six petitions in all, from the teachers at Galt Collegiate and Vocational Institute, District 24 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, Lincoln Avenue United Church, St. Andrew's United Church and St. Paul's United Church, all in Cambridge.

Mr. Laughren: I have a petition worded indentically to the one read by the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow) and signed by 198 citizens of the Sudbury area.

TRANSMISSION LINES

Mr. O'Connor: I have a third petition, bearing the names of 49 citizens of Brantford, dealing with another subject.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, are residents and property owners in the township of Brantford in an area designated by Ontario Hydro as an alternate route for transmission facilities. Our properties are located in the area outlined in red on the enclosed map. We oppose the Highway 403 alternate route. We strongly object to this route as it will be situated on and cross over prime agricultural lands and urban properties."

HYDRO ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. Elston: I have, as well, a petition in the following form:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas we, the undersigned, have received numerous letters"-these letters are attached to this petition-"addressed to the Lieutenant Governor expressing concern about the Atomic Energy Control Board granting an operating licence to the management staff in the Bruce nuclear power development during the recent labour dispute;

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"That the parliament of Ontario take all necessary steps to make Ontario Hydro more accountable to the public."

That petition is signed by three members of my constituency and contains, I think, 226 letters to the effect mentioned in the petition.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

CHANGE OF NAME ACT

Hon. Mr. Pope moved, seconded by Mr. Guindon, first reading of Bill 11, An Act to revise the Change of Name Act.

Motion agreed to.

CHILDREN'S LAW REFORM AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Pope moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Grossman, first reading of Bill 12, An Act to amend the Children's Law Reform Act.

Motion agreed to.

VITAL STATISTICS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Pope moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Grossman, first reading of Bill 13, An Act to amend the Vital Statistics Act.

Motion agreed to.

3:50 p.m.

SUPPORT AND CUSTODY ORDERS ENFORCEMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Pope moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Grossman, first reading of Bill 14, Support and Custody Orders Enforcement Act, 1985.

Motion agreed to.

CREDITORS' RELIEF AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Pope moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Grossman, first reading of Bill 15, An Act to amend the Creditors' Relief Act.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Pierce: I am honoured to be given the opportunity to participate in the debate on the speech from the throne. As the newly elected member for the Rainy River district, I realize I will have a challenging task ahead if I am to equal the accomplishments of my predecessor Mr. Patrick Reid.

Through 17 years of service, Mr. Reid demonstrated his commitment to the residents of Rainy River and his genuine concern for the development and enhancement of Ontario's north. I can only hope I will be able to build upon the work done by Mr. Reid within my constituency.

I am sure the members of this Legislature will be saddened to learn of the passing of Patrick's father, John Reid, Sr. I know all members will share in extending sympathy to the Reid family. I am also sure Patrick would want to join me in extending our sympathies to the family and friends of Webb Calder who recently passed away. Mr. Calder was the Hydro manager at Atikokan and he played an active role in the community and the various utility associations. His contributions will be greatly missed.

In the coming months, I hope I can make a positive contribution to the daily proceedings of this House. I look forward to meeting and getting to know all the members and I believe I shall benefit from their vast array of talents and learn from their experiences.

I should like to express my appreciation to all those people who devoted so much of their time and energy participating in the recent election. I know every member would agree that without their efforts we would not be here today. I also would like to extend my personal thanks to the people of the great riding of Rainy River.

Through my past activities in municipal government and my involvement with the Northern Ontario Development Corp., I believe I have a good understanding of the concerns, the hopes and the dreams of not only my constituents in the riding but also of all the people in this great province. I would like my constituents to know that as their representative at Queen's Park my door will always be open. I am greatly honoured that they have placed their trust and confidence in my abilities. To be chosen as their representative is not something I take lightly. I will endeavour to make sure their concerns are heard and fairly addressed.

My own experiences as a negotiator with the United Steelworkers of America have taught me that problems and differences can be resolved successfully if there is open and honest discussion and if the parties involved act in good faith. It is in this frame of mind that I will undertake my duties.

As a lifelong resident of northern Ontario, it always amazes me, when I travel in the southern regions of our province, that so many misconceptions still exist regarding life in the north. Many people view northern Ontario as a vast wilderness, an endless parade of trees, lakes and rocks. While I must admit that we have our fair share of these things, they are certainly not the be-all and end-all of northern Ontario.

Most fail to realize the vibrant communities stretched across the north with people whose enthusiasm echoes the spirit upon which this great nation was founded. They are people with a vision for the future. They are people who are dedicated to seeing the north reach its full potential. They are people who have chosen to live there and make full use of the opportunities that abound. In my mind, our greatest resource is not the trees, the lakes or the rocks. Rather, it is the people who inhabit this vast and magnificent land.

This spirit of the north, this common vision which keeps us united, is not well understood in the south. Many do not understand why we live in the north and what keeps us there. I hope during my term of office I can foster a better understanding here at Queen's Park of our hopes and aspirations and just perhaps rekindle that founding spirit and vision in those who have long ago forgotten.

There is a wealth of opportunity in the north for all those who are willing to use their imagination, creativity and experience. One only has to look at the achievements that have been made and the progress that has continued since our forefathers first ventured north of Superior. The forest offered the first opportunities for our early pioneers. The efforts of these settlers established an industry which for many moulded and shaped their lives. As well, it was an industry that would become the economic mainstay for much of northern Ontario.

I am encouraged by the initiatives announced in the throne speech that will ensure the continued viability of this industry. This is especially important to the people of the Rainy River district. Since more than 75 per cent of the economy in northwestern Ontario is linked in some manner to the forest industry, its continued survival and growth is of prime importance.

Through careful planning, the government of Ontario has been able to take significant steps towards the establishment of a comprehensive forest management plan. During the early 1970s, recognition of an impending generation gap between the old and the new forests permitted the government to increase support for seedling production. Currently, the province is producing more than 150 million seedlings annually. However, as the number of trees being planted increases, it follows that programs designated to promote seedling survival must also expand.

This is the purpose of the government's tending Ontario's forests program. In addition to providing meaningful employment, this program will contribute significantly to the enhancement of survival rates and ensure the growth of new and vigorous forests. Because of the combination of that and other government initiatives such as forest management agreements, the development of hardier, faster-growing trees, and improved

and intensified management techniques, I think the future of our forests is not as dim as some would have us believe. I am convinced these new, innovative approaches to forest management which have been undertaken by the government will overcome the challenges ahead.

While the forest industry has provided opportunities for northern citizens in the past and will continue to play a major role in the northern economy, I believe the greatest potential for future development lies in other areas. This is particularly true in my riding. There are enormous possibilities for further expansion in the areas of agriculture, tourism and mining. I believe we as a government have a responsibility to assist our northern residents to capitalize on these opportunities. This is why I am more than pleased with the initiatives outlined in the speech from the throne.

4 p.m.

Although some may express surprise, one of my concerns within the riding of Rainy River is that of increased assistance for farmers. Contrary to popular belief, it is possible to farm successfully north of Superior. In my constituency, there are quite a number of farmers undertaking a variety of operations. There are grain farmers, beef producers and dairy farmers. The problems they encounter are the same ones experienced by farmers everywhere. There are problems associated with the securing of loans and the establishing of credit. Of great concern is the slow erosion of the family farm and the takeover by large corporations.

It may be difficult to imagine that we could be concerned about the loss of the family farm in my riding. I am sure some members are wondering whether farming has been going on long enough in the north to have a tradition associated with the family farm. I can assure members that we have been in farming for a long time in Rainy River and that the loss of a farm that has been in the same family for generations is a tragedy no matter where one lives in this province.

The AgriNorth program, which was announced last year, is beginning to make a difference to northern farmers. To date, 425 projects have received assistance from this \$10-million program, a number of which are within my riding. I believe this program will do much to develop the agribusiness infrastructure throughout the north and consequently spur the expansion of this industry.

As members may be well aware, there is enough potential crop land in northern Ontario to increase Ontario's food land by 30 per cent.

Through such programs as the AgriNorth program, I believe we can reach this potential. The initiatives announced in the throne speech will further augment the work that is currently under way.

Two of the programs outlined in the throne speech are of particular interest to the farming community in Rainy River. These are the farm operating credit assistance program and a commitment to at least a bipartite red meat stabilization program.

As I mentioned, the problems encountered by farmers in securing loans at competitive rates are as real in Rainy River as they are in the rest of Ontario. I believe we are all aware that a number of factors have contributed to this over the years. Among them is the increasing use of and need for new technology, mechanized equipment and, consequently, increased credit requirements for farmers.

In addition, more and more lenders have adjusted from the earlier practice of lending on the basis of security to that of lending on the basis of the ability to pay. Consequently, I feel this \$40-million, three-year credit assistance program will significantly help farmers in my riding to maintain and expand their operations. By providing operating loan guarantees and interest reduction grants, this program will enable many producers with sound operating plans and a good chance of success to proceed with their plans this year.

The commitment to the red meat stabilization plan is another initiative that will assist producers in my riding to stay in business. For the past few years the beef industry in Ontario has faced difficult times, with falling prices and decreased demand.

I appreciate the fact that the government initiated an extensive consultation program with producers and processors alike so that problems can be examined and solutions proposed. The stabilization plan outlined in the throne speech will provide assistance to beef producers in Rainy River by ensuring a minimum price for their product. This will give producers the necessary stability to plan and expand production.

These two programs, as well as other initiatives announced in the throne speech, will greatly assist northern farmers. I believe the foundations have been laid and that we are now well under way towards the expansion of a thriving and profitable agricultural industry in the north.

Tourism is an area that I believe holds the key to the future of northern Ontario. We currently

have a fairly well established base industry in Rainy River. At present the industry is structured towards the American market, with canoe outfitting, hunting and fly-in fishing being the most popular activities.

However, in my opinion much more can and should be done to stimulate further development of this industry. The tourism industry is labour intensive, adds to the local economies and generates a significant portion of federal, provincial and municipal revenues. Tourism is now Ontario's second largest industry. It is generally agreed that by the year 2000 tourism will be Ontario's largest industry.

I would like to see Ontario's north lead the way in capturing and developing this potential market. I realize there is and has been a wealth of government assistance available to the tourism industry. Through the auspices of the Northern Ontario Development Corp., the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development and the Northern Ontario Rural Development Agreement, more than 46 tourism development projects have been funded in my riding. Total government assistance in the form of loans or grants has exceeded \$5 million.

However, I believe many tourist operators have not been able to take full advantage of the assistance available. In my opinion, this has been largely due to misinformation and a low level of awareness concerning the type of help available and the criteria needed for project approval. Consequently, I am pleased by the government's announcement in the throne speech to establish a tourism marketing board. I hope this board will be able to increase awareness of the programs available for operators and help them reach their full potential. In time, given the level of interest for further development that has been shown by communities throughout the north, I believe tourism will replace our resource industries as the largest and most stable industry in northern Ontario.

The last area I would like to speak about today, one that has potential for expansion in my riding, is that of mining. Some members may be surprised that there would be any potential for further development of mining in northern Ontario, but I can assure them the potential is there and it should be capitalized on now.

In the eastern end of my riding there is currently a fair amount of exploration activity under way. Indications are that there may be some gold deposits and other base metals that could warrant development. I believe such activity should be encouraged and I am support-

ive of the recently announced geoscience surveys program. This will help identify the areas of mineral deposit and serve as a guide for development

As I have indicated, there exists a vast number of opportunities within northern Ontario. We are currently trying to expand our economic base with the aim of establishing a healthy, stable economic environment in the north. I, for one, am certainly aware of the problems that can arise when communities are dependent on one industry for their livelihood. These tragedies cannot continue.

I believe we have the resources and the abilities needed to overcome these challenges. This has been demonstrated by the northern Ontario regional development program announced in May of last year. I am convinced it will play a major role in helping communities develop a diverse economic base.

This program has met with overwhelming approval and has received a fantastic response. Within six months of its creation, 53 projects with a value of more than \$8 million have already been approved. By dividing the funds available into four development areas, this program will ensure that communities can establish and build upon well-developed and diversified local economies. The announcement in the throne speech of an additional \$10 million for the Nordev program will mean we can reach our goal much more quickly.

In conclusion, I have not lost confidence in this government. I believe the throne speech signifies that the Progressive Conservative government of Ontario is committed to providing responsible government and is capable of addressing the needs and the concerns of the people of Ontario.

Members opposite are fond of pointing out that they lack confidence in this government as, in their estimation, two thirds of the Ontario electorate voted for a change on May 2. I would like to point out that equating a vote for change with a vote for the Liberal Party of Ontario is a quantum leap. After all, an equal two thirds of the Ontario electorate signalled that they would certainly have no confidence in a Liberal government.

As for the party that may be soon located physically on my right and that will always be philosophically on my left, I would like to point out that three quarters of the people in Ontario have no confidence in that party at all. Its coalition with the official opposition came as somewhat of a surprise to me. I would have

thought they would have learned something from their federal counterparts—to beware of Liberals bearing promises.

4:10 p.m.

However, I feel I must speak for my constituents. Ontario's north has been well served by a Progressive Conservative government at Queen's Park. It has demonstrated that it is responsive to their needs and is prepared to assist the residents of northern Ontario to reach their full potential. I know the people in my riding would have serious reservations about the ability of a party with only one northern member in its caucus to be able to understand completely their concerns and provide them with fair representation.

Consequently, I fully support the adoption of this throne speech and reject the motion of no confidence. I urge all members, and especially those from northern Ontario, to do the same.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I am very honoured to rise in my place to comment on His Honour's address to this assembly from my perspective in Kitchener. I do so humbly because I know that as the member for Kitchener I am walking in big shoes.

Kitchener riding today is an entirely urban riding in an area that is growing faster than much of the province. Twenty-five years ago one riding took in almost all of what are now the ridings of Kitchener, Kitchener-Wilmot and Waterloo North. Our sitting member was the Leader of the Opposition at that time, John Wintermeyer.

Mr. Wintermeyer represented Waterloo North, as it was then called, from 1955 to 1963. He was opposition leader from 1958. As a young observer of the political scene, I looked up to him as a man of high principles and dedication to humanity, a man who did and said what was right and what had to be said regardless of the consequences. Today John Wintermeyer and I have come together. We serve on an outreach committee of 16 downtown Kitchener churches, and I have an opportunity to work hand in glove with the man I looked up to when I was a university student.

Since 1967 the riding now known as Kitchener was represented by Mr. Jim Breithaupt, who, I take it, is something of a legend in this House. He was Treasury and Revenue critic until 1973, chairman of the public accounts committee from 1968 to 1973, opposition House leader from 1973 to 1978 and then chairman of the select committee on company law. He spent four years working on our present insurance legislation and

is part of the reason we no longer need to line up to renew our auto licences on February 28.

What sort of community produces that sort of member? Kitchener is a hard-working city, diligent to a fault. There are small, diverse industries. Most people own their own homes and most of those homes are not that far from where they work.

As principled, hard-working people, the people of Kitchener have their priorities right. We are just isolated enough to keep these things in place and yet we are big enough not to ignore our neighbours. That is why the members may have noticed in this week's news that more than 200 Mennonites from the Kitchener area are in Barrie and Grand Valley helping their fellow man when he needs it.

We know how to work hard and we know how to play hard. Witness our famous Bavarian festival, Oktoberfest, with which I am certain every member of this House has some familiarity. I welcome them to come and visit it this fall if they have not already done so.

Why has this area been an oasis, unwilling to listen to the siren call of the Tories? I would suggest part of the reason is that the people of Kitchener have hearts and this government has long lost its heart. For instance, our hospitals are all underfunded. They cannot even continue their present services. All three local hospitals have found it excruciatingly difficult to deal with three Ministers of Health within 12 months who either will not or cannot accept the fact there are just not enough funds, short of user fees, to operate the hospitals.

His Honour's address speaks of a need to provide \$73 million for hospital capital projects. Freeport Hospital in Kitchener must have \$24 million of that \$73 million immediately to provide for 183 extended care beds that we have to have. I realize that is one third of the budget. I trust there is no hospital crisis in the rest of the province or there would have been provision for more hospital capital expenditure.

Clearly, this is a problem that needs to be looked into more thoroughly. Waterloo region and the province are going to have to come up with a strategy to address this problem. I do not think it is merely a matter of adding a great number of beds to the hospitals and nursing homes. We already have the dubious honour of institutionalizing a greater percentage of our population over the age of 65 than do many countries. In England, that percentage is 5.1 per cent; in the United States, 6.3 per cent; in Canada, 8.4 per cent; in Ontario, 8.9 per cent;

and in Waterloo region, 10.1 per cent of the people over 65 are in institutions.

Whenever possible, we should be allowing people to remain in their own homes as long as they are able, for that is cheaper in the long run and more humane, and it is what senior citizens are telling us they want.

For this to happen, a variety of community support services must be developed, such as Meals on Wheels, homemaking services, home maintenance and repair services and family relief services.

In Waterloo region we serve Meals on Wheels to about 240 senior citizens five days a week. This service, which is provided almost 100 per cent by volunteers, is funded by service clubs and it desperately must grow. The benefit of good, regular, nutritional intake is unquestionable. Without that, the health of the senior citizen will break down and a hospital or nursing home bed will be required. The provincial government should be playing a leadership role in encouraging the development of a well co-ordinated and readily accessible community support system.

This brings me back to my association with John Wintermeyer. With unemployment as high as it is everywhere in the province, we have found in our community a growing number of people, many of them employable and many others who are senior citizens trying to live on pensions, who simply do not have food.

Thus, because the government was asleep, it was necessary for a local impetus to start a soup kitchen. The funding for that soup kitchen came only as a winter works grant, effective from January to April. This is the time, I suppose, when people are noticed to be freezing to death. This government did not really care whether or not they were starving to death as long as nobody saw them.

That is why 15 downtown Kitchener churches were able to step in where the government had failed and raise the money to keep the kitchen open until next fall. It is interesting to note that 1,618 people were fed in March, 1,922 people were fed in April and 2,030 people were fed in May, although this government would have closed the doors of the St. John's kitchen on April 30.

Of these people, 65 per cent are employable and actively seeking work; the other 35 per cent are living largely on pensions. The number using the service increases markedly as pension-cheque day approaches and there is no money left at home for food. When the pension cheque arrives, our lineups are reduced briefly.

I am proud of the caring role that exists in our community, a caring role unmatched or even perhaps not understood in the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Health or elsewhere in this government. This is why Waterloo region leads this province and the nation in community justice initiatives. Volunteer community organizations work hard to make our region a safer place to live. As a result, we have one of the lowest crime rates in the nation.

Our initiatives have been duplicated in the rest of the province, invariably with no leadership, no enthusiasm and little real help from this government. We had the first community resource centre in the province, permitting prisoners to work and pay for their keep, pay taxes, support their families and pay compensation to their victims. We had the first programs for victim-offender reconciliation and community mediation and the first services for victims, all begun by the Mennonite Central Committee.

We had a struggling bail recognizance program four years before it was recognized in Queen's Park. It has spread to the rest of the province, saving millions of dollars annually by policing pre-trial bail situations. This government tried to cut off funding in December 1983, and only public reaction in our region has allowed it to limp along month by month, until the government hopes it can be cut off some day when nobody is looking.

4:20 p.m.

This government does not care, and nothing has been mentioned about it in His Honour's speech, because in 10 years there has really been no Minister of Correctional Services who has been interested in corrections. There has been an arbitrary, authoritarian approach to the whole nongovernmental organization sector. In fact, of the 31 community resource centres in Ontario currently, none has a written contract with this government, and that has been the case since March 31, 1985. They too are living a hand-to-mouth existence.

What better example of all this is there than the obstructionist approach we have seen in the administration of the Young Offenders Act? The old Juvenile Delinquents Act of 1908 needed to be replaced by legislation that puts the onus on a youth to be responsible for his own acts. Young people have changed; the benevolent grandfather approach is not good enough. That is what the Young Offenders Act is all about, and it would have been law 10 years ago in all of Canada had the government in this province not dragged its feet in attempting to administer it.

It is obscene that this government suggests to 11-year-olds that they are immune from criminal prosecution. Children's aid societies and police have exactly the same powers they have always had. What is needed is the will, the heart to promulgate enabling directions to administer the act and make it work.

All that is needed is direction, for instance, to probation officers. At present, juvenile probation officers are still controlled by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and they administer children to the age of 16. Adult probation officers are under the Ministry of Correctional Services, and they administer those who are over 16. Why has there been no enabling legislation within the spirit of this act to put all probation officers under one jurisdiction, where they belong?

These are just a few of the matters that concern me, as well as the many higher-priority items on the agenda for this Legislature. I realize, however, that a number of people wish to comment and a short time is available for this debate. For that reason I will curb my urge to speak on these matters until another time. I realize there are only about 120 hours left, including Sunday, give or take an hour, before we can start to work and put a new face on Ontario.

Mr. Reville: As I rise to make my initial speech in this House, may I first congratulate the members of the House on their election and re-election.

Representing the diverse interests of the people of Riverdale is a challenge that makes me feel at times both strong and faint of heart. I feel faint of heart as well when I think about the challenge of following the late Jim Renwick, who served the people of Riverdale for more than 20 years.

I went to the library and got a copy of Jim Renwick's initial speech in the House on February 3, 1965. To put it in context for the members of the House, he noted that the day before, Dr. Martin Luther King and Rev. Ralph Abernathy had been arrested in Selma, Alabama, for parading without a permit. This, of course, was the Great Society of Lyndon Johnson. Since then we have had the Just Society of someone else. During all that time Jim Renwick earned enormous respect in this Legislature and enormous love from the people of Riverdale, even those few who did not vote for him. He said at the conclusion of his speech, "Let us eliminate poverty in this society," a challenge we might well continue to take up.

I was puzzled by the speech from the throne, as I expect virtually every member of the House was. I know what a Tory speech is supposed to sound like. In my home there was a portrait of George Drew. I listened carefully the other day—I think it was Tuesday—to the remarks by the current brief Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie), who said that historically the position of Progressive Conservative governments has been to do things in an evolutionary way to allow people time to adjust.

Indeed, for 42 successive Progressive Conservative years, Tory governments have stood on the shore with that shred of sisal in their hand, calling out reassuringly to a drowning public: "Do not worry. This shred of sisal will evolve into a rope."

Perhaps I will say that again; it seems to have fallen on a House that is fast asleep. Fortunately, this will be reproduced momentarily, and members can go and catch up with it again.

I believe the government has reached an evolutionary dead end. Although through this throne speech it has made a clumsy, lurching attempt to adapt, I am sceptical; my friends in the New Democratic Party are sceptical; my new friends in the Liberal Party are sceptical; and the people of Ontario are sceptical.

I have had the honour of being an elected representative in the past, albeit at a very junior level, and I have run up against the intransigence of the Tory government on a number of occasions. As I read, reread and ponder over this throne speech and scratch my head, I encounter a number of items that I struggled to deal with as an alderman in the city of Toronto. Perhaps I could briefly itemize them for the members.

On page 13 of the throne speech, the government promises to prepare right-to-know legislation. This is the very government that in February was solemnly advising the city of Toronto and the board of health for the city of Toronto that right-to-know legislation would destroy industry in Ontario because industry would not be able to protect its trade secrets and, in any event, all that workers and neighbours had to do was to ask to find out what kinds of explosions were likely to occur in their work places and neighbourhoods.

In south Riverdale it is not currently a politically correct position to be concerned about the environment. The five members of this Legislature who were here in the 27th Parliament and who are still here in the 33rd Parliament will remember hearing Jim Renwick speak about environmental problems in south Riverdale over

the years. Clearly, the conversion of the Conservative government and its eloquent defence of our natural environment are not believable.

4:30 p.m.

My initial interest as a citizen of Toronto was in the education system. The throne speech crows about the adequate funding of our excellent public school system. Of course, it is no surprise to anybody who is interested in education in Metro that the share of provincial assistance for elementary and secondary schools in Metro has plummeted from 33.5 per cent in 1975 to 4.5 per cent in 1985. Indeed, the city of Toronto itself is a net funder of the educational system off the property tax base.

There was some discussion in a previous session of this House about Bill 127. My colleagues of the day warned that would be a serious attack on the educational system. We see that is true. On May 27, the Toronto Board of Education was obliged to terminate 174 secondary school teachers. The loss of at least 87 of those jobs can be attributed to Bill 127. Clearly Bill 127 must be repealed.

The assurances that protection of the excellent public school system will not be borne by the property tax leave a person in the city of Toronto even more sceptical. As succeeding Ministers of Revenue will know, property tax and the issues surrounding property tax have been of real concern to citizens in Toronto. The assessment system is bizarre, the assessment review system is bizarre and the burden that has been placed on the property tax dollar is outrageous. Serious reform of the property tax system must follow.

In the matter of health, the government indicates that in Ontario we have the finest health care system in the world. That makes me very nervous about the balance of the world. I need speak about only one section of delivery of health care services, and those are the services—perhaps it would be more appropriate for me to say the lack of services—delivered to psychiatric and former psychiatric patients. The members will hear a great deal more from me on that subject as this session goes on.

The government wanted the House to bear in mind its concern for the supply of rental accommodation in the province. Obviously, the government does well to be concerned about the supply of rental accommodation because it has done almost nothing about the supply of rental accommodation for so long that it would take someone with a very good memory to remember the last time Ontario was actively involved in the housing business.

In fact, some members of this House had occasion to see what happened when there was an opportunity to preserve some of the stock that exists in the city of Toronto. I speak, of course, of the famous Eglinton Avenue apartments. I was proud to be one, along with six other New Democrats and four Liberals at the city of Toronto, who would not tolerate the destruction of affordable housing in the city.

Mr. Philip: The member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett) did, though.

Mr. Reville: He certainly did. The current high commissioner to somewhere claimed he did not know what the city of Toronto's intentions were with respect to those buildings.

There are a large number of housing issues that the government has not attended to and for which there are ready solutions. It requires only the will to do something, and the next government will indeed have the will to do something.

I think of the problems facing single people in the city of Toronto and elsewhere in Metro. I am happy to say that Alderman Joanne Campbell, my former wardmate and chairman of the task force on singles housing, has suggested several very useful directions in which to go. The province should be involved in them. She is watching the proceedings today, and I hope she will continue her work in the important area of singles housing.

The province's own housing company, the Ontario Housing Corp., leaves a great deal to be desired. I am sorry it has become a dormant organization. It has not built a stick of housing in a long time. My former city hall secretary, Mrs. Mollison, who also is watching the proceedings today, can attest to the fact that from the way property management is handled by the Ontario Housing Corp., it would seem the prime qualification is that the property manager should hate tenants. The Ontario Housing Corp. board is full of hacks and cronies and obviously needs to be opened up to let a little light in.

I am being glared at by the whip. I have no idea what that might mean.

In the throne speech, the government thought it might be a nice idea for all our citizens in this province to be equal. I am delighted to know the current government of this province has finally happened upon that idea. It is clear we have a long way to go in that regard. Several useful studies have proved it is still very difficult to get work in this province if one is not a white, Anglo-Saxon Protestant, and that is a deplorable situation. We discovered in the case of Wei Fu that it is somehow all right to be racist as long as

the racist in question does enough nudging and winking. Clearly, the Ontario Human Rights Commission must have more teeth in it.

This brings me to the sunshine section of the throne speech in which the writers decided it was time to throw open the curtains in Miss Faversham's room. One issue I have had some interest in, and still maintain a modest interest in, is the question of the domed stadium. The domed stadium could use a little light shed on some of the dealing and wheeling. How could it be that the members of the stadium corporation board of directors are all Tories? How could it be that there is such an interesting skein of corporate and political cosiness in the financing thereof? It is something worth looking at later in the public accounts committee.

We are going to have to do a lot better than this. We are going to have to fling open the doors of this place and let the people in.

As the session goes along, I will have occasion to comment on the state of our correctional institutions. At this point, suffice it to say I believe it is appalling that three inmates must share a cell designed for one person. I suspect the poor record of the Conservative government in the capital and renovation funding of our correctional institutions has a lot to do with the preoccupation with deterrence and punishment that has militated against meaningful reform.

4:40 p.m.

There is a difficult, perhaps unfathomable, gulf between those concerned with institutional order and those concerned with humane and functional treatment of an offender. I will say more on that later.

As well, I will have occasion to speak about the police. I have had some positive experience with the office of the public complaints commissioner. In fact, I felt very strongly that Sidney Linden did an admirable job in an atmosphere that was not always conducive to such fine work.

The question of real civilian review must be addressed yet again so that it is not a one-sided kind of approach. I believe we should further protect the rights of police officers, both in connection with the complaint mechanism and in disciplinary action in general.

There is much to do. I do not believe the Tory government will do it. I do not believe it can.

Mr. McFadden: It is a great honour to serve in this House as the representative of the people of Eglinton riding. While we may live in an era marked by cynicism, an era where our every motive is questioned and where our democratic institutions are being pressured, scrutinized and analysed as never before, there is in my view no greater privilege than to represent one's friends, neighbours and community in this assembly.

I would first like to pay tribute to my predecessor as MPP for Eglinton, Roy McMurtry. Roy is an old friend of mine with whom I have worked closely for more than 12 years. While he represented Eglinton well and effectively in this House for some 10 years, he will likely be best remembered for his outstanding contributions to public life and government as Attorney General and Solicitor General of Ontario. Through his work and the accomplishments which flowed from it, Roy McMurtry became a household name not only throughout Ontario but also throughout Canada.

Roy will be well remembered for his stand against hate literature, his concern about hockey violence, his introduction of the Family Law Reform Act, his commitment to the equality of rights and opportunities for women and minorities, his determination to bring a stop to drinking and driving and his role in the patriation of the Canadian Constitution.

Roy had a proactive approach to politics and government. Where he saw injustice or a problem that needed solving, he felt it was his duty to speak out and to act appropriately, not to sit idly by.

As the new member for Eglinton, I would hope to maintain the activist tradition established by Roy McMurtry. I am sure I am speaking on behalf of all members of this House in wishing Roy well in his new responsibilities as Canada's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

Geographically, Eglinton riding is located in the centre of Metropolitan Toronto. It has hundreds of interesting stores and restaurants on Yonge Street and Eglinton Avenue, Mount Pleasant Road and Bayview Avenue, which offer some of the best shopping and finest food available anywhere in Ontario, even in Canada and perhaps even the world. While the shopping areas are part of my riding, the only part most people see, the stores and restaurants represent a very small part of the Eglinton community.

Eglinton is an area characterized by strong, active and involved neighbourhoods, encompassing everything from high-rise apartment buildings at Yonge and Eglinton and at Bathurst and Eglinton, through to the rich variety of low-rise housing in the upper Forest Hill, north Toronto, Lawrence Park, Sherwood Park and south Eglinton areas.

Over the years, Eglinton riding has developed a tradition of community involvement. There has

developed a strong sense that people must take a direct interest in meeting the needs of their community, whether it is financing a school ground, coaching little league hockey, developing day care facilities or providing home care and home support for the sick and the elderly.

This tradition of caring is exemplified by POINT, which stands for People and Organizations in North Toronto, and by its more than 100 member agencies and organizations. This tradition of community involvement and caring is a tradition I will seek to represent here in this Legislature.

Perhaps the most important single focus of community organizations in Eglinton is senior citizens. In my riding, 20 per cent of the population is over the age of 65, double the provincial average. This just indicates that Eglinton riding is ahead of its time since it is projected that 20 per cent of Ontario's population will be over the age of 65 by the early part of the next century.

Since the early 1970s, I have been actively involved in a number of volunteer organizations that provide services and activities for senior citizens. In fact, I have the distinction of being the youngest retired president of the Second Mile Club of Toronto.

Everyone concerned about the needs of senior citizens and particularly everyone involved in the provision of services for the elderly will welcome the proposal in the speech from the throne to create a ministry for the elderly. Also very welcome is the proposal to develop a farreaching, community-based care system to keep seniors in their communities and out of institutions, and the undertaking to provide new funds for the province's homemaker programs in order to increase home support for the elderly as well as the disabled.

The ageing of our population is the most significant demographic and even social change of our time. Over the next 20 years, the population of Canada, together with that of the entire western world, will undergo an ageing trend unprecedented in history. It has never happened before in recorded history that more than 20 per cent of any society's population was over the age of 65.

An ageing and aged population will have an important impact upon every aspect of our society, including the mix of housing required, the demand for health care and other services, the kind of recreational facilities needed, the demand on government and private pension plans, and

the increasing tax burden on the decreasing

number of people in the work force.

With regard to this last factor, I would point out that today we have between two and three people in the work force paying taxes for every one dependent person in our society who is not in the work force because he or she is either too young, too old, unemployed, a student, sick or disabled. If the current trend continues over the next 40 to 50 years, there will be one person in the work force for every dependent person, a condition that would make it impossible for us to collect the necessary tax revenue to maintain government services anywhere close to what they are today.

4:50 p.m.

In mentioning this, I am not trying to be a Cassandra. I am just urging this House to consider carefully the range of ramifications of our ageing population. In many ways society was caught off guard by the broad impact of the baby boom and its aftermath. We have no excuse for being caught off guard by the ageing boom which we can readily see coming.

Mr. McClellan: There is no excuse, you are right.

Mr. McFadden: Absolutely, and this government has responded to it. We must ensure that we establish a framework of social services in the years to come which will meet the needs of our growing seniors population humanely and compassionately, but also in a manner which will be possible in the light of the financial resources of our society.

In the light of the impact of our ageing population, the proposal in the throne speech to establish additional beds in chronic care hospitals, homes for the aged and nursing homes will be well received by Ontarians. At the same time, however, we must face the fact that increasing health care costs could represent the biggest single spending challenge faced by this province.

Today, the Ministry of Health accounts for almost 31 per cent of the provincial budget. Over the past three years, that budget has risen by 58 per cent. In view of the fact that senior citizens account for about one third of health costs, it is readily apparent what impact an ageing population will have on health care expenditures as the number of senior citizens doubles in the next two decades.

When the factor of ageing is added to the high cost of the introduction of advanced technology in health care, it is fairly clear we could face a very critical situation in the near future in which health care costs will seriously crowd out other

government expenditures. This is why the proposed extension of addiction services and public health programs in the speech from the throne is particularly appropriate today.

While the expansion of home care and home support, the introduction of medical technology in the most cost-effective manner and the implementation of new management techniques in hospitals may be very helpful in reducing the rate of increase over time of health care expenditures, it is clear the promotion and maintenance of good health is the only real way to reduce health care costs.

A doctor recently told me of a study which indicated that if we could eliminate all smoking and drinking, the health budget could be cut in half. Of course, this objective is not possible to achieve, but if we are to have any hope of containing health cost increases, the government and our community generally must put new stress on the promotion of healthful living and the reduction of self-induced illnesses caused by the harmful effects of stress, drug addiction, and alcohol and smoking abuse. We can then hope that Ontarians will go through the ageing process more healthy and independent.

I would now like to turn from the vital ramifications of the ageing of our society to an important concern facing the other end of the age spectrum, our children. That is our system of public education in Ontario.

The speech from the throne reiterates the province's commitment to extend public funding for secondary Roman Catholic schools beyond grade 10, but only after full public input on the legislation. At the same time, I welcome the guarantee set out in the speech that adequate funding of our public school system will be maintained.

In Eglinton riding we have one of the finest networks of public and private schools anywhere in Ontario. Everywhere I went during the election campaign, and also everywhere I have gone since May 2–

Mr. McClellan: Where have you been?

Mr. McFadden: All over the place. Students, parents and grandparents have expressed concern about the future of the public school system as a consequence of the many issues raised in recent months relating to the extension of public funding in the separate secondary schools.

In considering any legislation, it is vital to ensure that the financial and academic strength of the public school system is not jeopardized. The vitality and the quality of our public schools have been an essential part of Ontario's life since the

days of Egerton Ryerson and a key ingredient of the economic, social and cultural development of our province. We must work to ensure that this vitality and quality are not undermined and that the confidence of our teachers, parents and students in the system is not fundamentally shaken.

As we consider this matter in the weeks ahead, I hope we will not lose sight of the most important people in this discussion: our children. When one gets into a discussion of job security, funding formula and education theory, I have found there is often a tendency to overlook the boys and girls whose entire futures are on the line in this debate and yet who have no real voice here in this House. It is our job, as members of this Legislature, to speak on behalf of the wellbeing of our province's children.

The final comment I would like to make concerning the forthcoming education debate relates to tolerance in our society. The remarks made by the Anglican Archbishop of Toronto towards the end of the election campaign were unfortunate since they are socially and religiously divisive. We must try to ensure that the debate on this important issue takes place in a tolerant and fair-minded manner, free from the expressions of bigotry that characterized many such debates in Ontario's history. If this cannot be done, our political system, our society and our children will be the poorer because of it.

While education is of great importance to many people in Ontario, I would briefly like to discuss another vital issue for Ontarians: the cost and availability of rental housing. On behalf of the thousands of tenants in Eglinton riding, I support the reforms of the Residential Tenancies Act proposed in the speech from the throne, which will reduce the maximum rent increase permitted without review to four per cent and will lead to the establishment of a workable rent registry system.

At the same time, I also strongly endorse the initiatives proposed in the speech to deal with the shortage of rental accommodation by stimulating the broadest possible range of types of housing construction, taking in private, co-operative, nonprofit and convert-to-rent projects. There is a shortage of affordable apartments for rent in Toronto today. This has created problems for those on fixed and modest incomes, particularly senior citizens and families with young children.

The balanced and progressive approach on housing contained in the speech from the throne is the only way in which we will ever attract the kind of capital required to alleviate the current rental-apartment shortage.

Finally, I would like to deal with a concern that polls indicate is number one in the minds of Canadians: job creation and the economy. The speech from the throne set out a practical and effective approach for the maintenance of economic growth, the development of international trade and the enhancement of skilled training in Ontario. The economic statement delivered to the House by the Treasurer (Miss Stephenson) on Monday proved how well the Ontario economy has been performing over the past two years and how effective the economic policies of our government have been.

The increase in the gross provincial product, coupled with this province's remarkable record of job creation since November 1982, clearly proves Ontario has led Canada out of the recession, but we have much more to do if we are to achieve full employment. This job can only be done if we have in office the kind of government we have now in Ontario which pursues farsighted, growth-oriented policies.

Mr. McClellan: The member thinks we have full employment, does he?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I suppose they have had full employment for 42 years.

5 p.m.

Mr. McFadden: Let the members opposite not worry about that. Give us another four years and we will achieve it.

For 15 years I have worked closely with Canadian and foreign entrepreneurs in the establishment of all types of businesses in Ontario, ranging from communications and computer software companies to auto parts and chemical manufacturing enterprises. In dealing with these entrepreneurs, I have found one of the main reasons they have created new enterprises or expanded existing ones in Ontario is the helpful attitude and the positive environment for growth created by our government.

I would particularly like to single out the work of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, whose officials have always been exceedingly helpful in assisting new enterprises to get started, whether it is in providing information on plant locations, giving advice on business organization, working with business people in submitting applications to the Foreign Investment Review Agency or facilitating the securing of landed-immigrant status for foreign entrepreneurs.

While specific programs to assist business people directly are important, perhaps more important is the atmosphere for growth and the infrastructure created by our government. Businesses are created and expanded in this province because of the sound financial management of our government, the availability of reliable electric power, the first-class system of highways, the excellent system of education and the stability and philosophy of our government.

In the rarefied atmosphere of this assembly, it is easy to forget what creates and maintains jobs. Jobs are created by hundreds and thousands of entrepreneurs who individually decide to hire one person here in a clothing store, 10 persons there in a computer service company or 100 persons somewhere else in an auto parts plant.

Over the years, these entrepreneurs have brought economic growth and employment to Ontario because they have known they had a government they could count on in this province, a government which was even able to offset the albatross created around their necks in the past by the now happily departed Liberal government in Ottawa.

Of course, the work is not over. If our province is to create the number of jobs we will need in the years to come, we will require the kind of commitment to growth and the practical approach to economic management set out in the speech from the throne.

Yet that speech falls on the deaf ears and closed minds of the members opposite. The opposition takes its negative approach in the face of the fact that the speech from the throne sets out a practical and farsighted program which will deal effectively with the social and economic challenges facing Ontario today.

It is a sound program which is consistent with the practical and farsighted policies pursued to the tremendous benefit of Ontario by successive Progressive Conservative Premiers George Drew, Leslie Frost, John Robarts and William Davis. Regardless of the outcome in this House of the vote on June 18, history and events will judge the speech from the throne to be right and appropriate for the people of Ontario.

Mr. Offer: It is a pleasure and an honour for me to rise in this debate as the member for the riding of Mississauga North, which ranks in population as the second largest in Ontario. It is a vital part of the great city of Mississauga, a city not only in name but in fact. The greatness, enthusiasm and dynamism of Mississauga comes from its citizens, people from all walks of life, making a contribution not only to the city but to the province at large.

I am proud to represent the people of the riding of Mississaugua North-people from the commu-

nities of Malton, Meadowvale, Erin Mills, Streetsville, Cooksville, Sheridan Homelands, the Credit Woodlands, all part of this riding, all with concerns of the present and hopes for the future.

As a new member of this great chamber, I gave much thought to what I would say today. I thought of the many people I have become associated with in my years of involvement in Mississauga. I thought of the great many workers during the election, those knocking on doors and putting up signs, telephone canvassers and office workers, who had so many important jobs and such little public recognition.

I thought of those people who contribute not only at election time but throughout the year at the riding level, by organizing fund-raisers, keeping the riding organization strong, making it a vibrant force and the local voice of provincial politics. What is their motivation? Simply stated, it is a fundamental belief in the policies of my party.

So I partake today in this debate for and on behalf of the members of our organization. The speech from the throne had many good things, and I want to give the government some credit. In fact, I campaigned on some of those pronouncements against my Conservative opponent. I wonder how this government is going to explain its speech from the throne to those men and women who ran as its candidates but worked for its policies.

I have seen a great amount of hypocrisy in my day, but none so blatant as the speech from the throne of Tuesday last. This hypocrisy is not lost on the people of Ontario. This speech from the throne proves that Ontario Toryism has no permanent allies or enemies, only the permanent interest of perpetual political power. That is not what the people need and that is not what the people want. The people of Ontario both need and deserve a government ready to implement fresh, innovative policies which reflect the realities of the 1980s.

The people of Ontario need a government having not only an understanding of the realities of the present, but a clear break with the past in the sense that it does not serve us well. This province has a great future, but achieving it is going to take a different attitude, a different direction, different leadership and different management in the future.

The people of Mississauga North and the people of this province voted on May 2 for a change. They saw my party had the policies to carry them through the 1980s and into the 1990s,

and was ready to meet not only the problems and concerns of the day but also the problems and concerns of the future.

The people of Mississauga North are not immune, are not shielded from the larger provincial problems. We in Mississauga know the need for employment, for safeguarding our environment, for increased funding for our educational system and for quality day care systems.

The people of Ontario not only do not need or want the old ideas but are uncomfortable with the old ideas. A new approach, a fresh approach, is what they want.

In Mississauga North the electorate said the Conservative Party had no historical right to govern. On May 2 they said the Conservative Party had lost its will to sensitize itself to the needs, concerns and desires of all the people of this province.

It is trite to say the rate of unemployment is appalling, that we must do something about it and that people need jobs. We all know that and we all know our young people have been bearing a disproportionate share of the burden of unemployment. Too many thousands of our youth in Mississauga and throughout the province go without jobs and without hope.

We need a new direction. My party will not fail our youth. We will pave a fresh path, a renewal of hope, with positive policies ready to adapt to the job demands of the 1980s and onward.

We believe in the rich potential of Ontario and that job creation is possible with the right mix of co-operation by business, labour and government. We cannot let our youth down. The youth of Ontario are our greatest natural resource. By investing in our youth we invest in ourselves and in the future of this province.

Mr. Speaker, you may remember the city of Mississauga was the victim of a disastrous derailment of a train carrying a most dangerous chemical. The co-operation of many agencies, many organizations, the municipal council and the understanding of the citizens of Mississauga diffused a situation with a potential for tragic consequences of the most immense proportions. As such, the environment is an area which clearly and personally is of concern to the people of Mississauga North and Mississauga as a whole. **5:10 p.m.**

My party is ready to act on the environmental rights bill; take action against acid rain, one of the greatest environmental threats to Ontario; stop the past inaction on the growing chemical threat from liquid industrial waste; and remove the veil of ignorance from the modern problems of water and air pollution. Those problems have existed for years and are not only continuing but are increasing.

The people of Ontario need a government that is unafraid to take the action necessary to protect our environment, that is unafraid to make the hard decisions and stand up not only for the people of Ontario but for its land as well.

At first I found it surprising that, in a throne speech of some 37 pages, only 21 lines were allocated to our public school system. However, it is less surprising when one keeps in mind that the present government has systematically reduced its portion of educational funding over the years. Indeed, it is not surprising when one keeps in mind that this government has been pulling funds out of the university sector for the past decade as enrolments have increased. It is not surprising when one keeps in mind that applications to community colleges have been allowed to proceed through something of a lottery system.

It is time to arrest the continued erosion of our educational system. It is time to restore the provincial share of funding to the position it once had. It is time to ensure the implementation of an effective, co-operative education program. It is time to make certain that no qualified student is denied access to higher education as a result of financial barriers. It is time to begin immediately with plans for an expanded community college system sensitive to the employment demands of today.

It is incumbent on all of us to realize there are individuals and families with insufficient income to maintain an acceptable standard of living. It is necessary to realize that because of high unemployment and family breakdown, single mothers form the bulk of recipients of general welfare and family benefits, not only in the region of Peel but also across the rest of the province.

We are a party that is ready to implement programs to encourage women to select a wide range of opportunities leading to meaningful future employment. We are a party that is sensitive to the needs of single mothers and is ready to implement workable policies. We are a party that understands that a day care system must be ready to meet the needs of parents with children under two years of age and to meet the economic impact on low-income to middle-income families ineligible for subsidies. We are a party that understands that in the region of Peel and elsewhere there are single parents keeping

their children at home on days when their school is going on an organized class trip because they cannot afford the \$2 fee.

I perceive the people of Mississauga North said to me before, during and after the election that, if anything, I am never to forget that when we talk in this great chamber about percentages of people, when we look at tendencies and the like, we are always talking about individuals. We are never to forget that first and foremost we have been entrusted with representing the individual persons who make up our ridings.

It is incumbent on us never to forget that weighty responsibility. It is something I shall always be cognizant of and something I shall always value.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I wish to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to express my sincere congratulations on your election to this honourable position in the House. I know you have served your riding and the province well in the past and I am sure that in the future you will do this House honour in your current position.

I would like to thank the good people of Sault Ste. Marie for giving me the opportunity to represent them in this House today. The riding I represent covers the city of Sault Ste. Marie. It is a unique riding in northern Ontario in that it is an urban riding that has the smallest area of any northern riding, but at the same time has the largest population of any riding in the north. In fact, under the proposed electoral redistribution, the riding of Sault Ste. Marie is projected to have the highest population in the province.

I am very proud of Sault Ste. Marie. I was born and brought up in the Sault, having attended Queen Elizabeth elementary school and then Sir James Dunn Collegiate. Like many Saultites, my family has long roots in our community. All four of my grandparents emigrated from Finland and Sweden to Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma district more than 60 years ago. Like so many others like them, they came to a dynamic, industrial community set in a wilderness paradise.

Sault Ste. Marie is Ontario's first community. It was settled well before the white man arrived in Ontario. It has always been a transportation mecca strategically centred among the three largest of the Great Lakes. The St. Mary's rapids, from which the Sault gets its name, have been fished for centuries. It is these rapids upon which the community of Sault Ste. Marie staked its future in the 1890s.

Most people know the story of Francis Clergue, the visionary figure who got an industrial empire off the ground in the Sault in the

late 1890s. He completed hydroelectric power plants in both Sault, Ontario, and Sault, Michigan. He founded Algoma Steel. He built a pulp mill and later a paper mill. He opened iron mining at Wawa and started the Algoma Central Railway.

Often lost in the focus on a hero like Francis Clergue is the role played by the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie as a unified community with a will to make things happen. Before Clergue, Sault Ste. Marie was a community of 4,000 or 5,000 people which recognized it had a tremendous asset in the St. Marys rapids, if only they could be harnessed.

Believing a major hydro plant would spur industrial development by attracting new investment, the community banded together and mortgaged its future to build such a plant. In a community effort, the city fathers harnessed all the resources they could muster to complete it. Unfortunately, by 1895 the city was on the verge of bankruptcy. No money was left and the power-plant construction had to be suspended.

It was then that Francis Clergue visited Sault Ste. Marie. He saw the potential in that uncompleted plant. The city agreed to turn it over to him in return for assuming its debt. But Sault Ste. Marie would not be what it is today if it were not for the vision and initiative of that community in the 1890s which staked everything on an investment in that power plant, an investment in itself that others said would not work. We need to redevelop that kind of co-operative community spirit and initiative in Sault Ste. Marie and in many other communities across Ontario.

In Sault Ste. Marie we face the challenge of restoring our community to what it had been in the past. The Conservative record on serving Sault Ste. Marie over the past few years is poor. It has watched the Sault endure some of the most devastating years in our history.

We have lost more than 4,000 jobs at Algoma Steel and as many as 8,000 jobs elsewhere. The lost wages could total more than \$1 billion over the last three years. That money is gone and cannot be recovered. However, it is not just a matter of money but of devastating social impact—broken lives, lost homes, bankrupt small businesses, a soup kitchen, the shattered homes of so many families. These are negative things that need not occur in a proud community such as the Sault. They are a discredit to the political and economic leadership which allowed them to happen.

Northern Ontario communities such as Sault Ste. Marie deserve a better deal than they have

been getting in this province. Northern Ontario has 85 per cent of Ontario's land mass and 10 per cent of its people. The north supplies the natural resources used by the industrial south, but northerners have rarely received their fair share of this wealth.

Instead, for 42 years the Conservative government has treated the north as an area to be used for short-term profit by outside corporations. Government policies designed with Toronto in mind do not fit the north. As a result, northerners face higher unemployment, greater job insecurity and higher costs for energy, goods and services than people in southern Ontario.

5:20 p.m.

In Ontario and in Sault Ste. Marie we are confronted by many challenges. We must clean up our environment. We must give women real equality. We must give northerners equal health care. We must create jobs.

In the Sault our biggest challenge is still jobs. Our official unemployment rate is 19 per cent, and that is not counting thousands who have given up looking. It was an absurdity to have the Minister of Labour represent the city with the highest unemployment rate in Ontario. Mr. Ramsay worked very hard for Sault Ste. Marie, and I sincerely credit him for his efforts and for what he accomplished in our community; but given the constraints of Conservative economic policy, it was not enough.

The Conservatives have a strong record of talking about jobs but a dismal record of delivering on their promises. The Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, which the tired Tories promised in 1981, turned out to be a bust.

I wish to take the opportunity of my maiden speech in this Legislature to fill members in on some of the economic platform upon which I campaigned in this past election. Members may not know that for the past six years I have been working as a financial planner in the head offices of Algoma Steel. I feel quite comfortable and very competent in dealing with matters of economics, finance and business.

During the election campaign I issued a 10-point economic challenge to Sault Ste. Marie. It is a positive approach to a regional economic plan for the Sault aimed at diversifying the local economy and creating the solid jobs we need. My challenge to the Sault is a sensible plan that takes into account our skilled work force, our steel, our natural resources potential and our need for educational and research facilities.

Let me explain some of the major challenges facing Sault Ste. Marie.

Challenge 1 is university education and research. A well-integrated regional economy is dependent on an educated work force and the ability to react to technological change. It is worth noting how poorly the Conservatives have met the challenge of university funding in this region.

The cost to run Ontario's 16 universities this year totals more than \$1.7 billion. That works out to about \$350 for every taxpayer in the province. Compare that with Algoma University College's budget of \$2.7 million. Dividing that by the number of taxpayers in Algoma, we find that only a paltry \$35 per taxpayer is being spent in the Sault.

In university funding we have been getting back only one dollar out of 10. No wonder 90 per cent of our students have to go out of town for an education, most never to return. No wonder Algoma University College can offer only a limited arts program. If we had our fair share of university funding, we might have 700 people on Algoma's payroll instead of 70.

If the Sault is to meet the challenge of attracting new industrial and economic development in this technologically advancing world, we need more university programs and research facilities in fields like metallurgy, forestry, environmental studies, engineering and business administration. As a major population centre in the north, the Sault deserves a better deal than it received from the Conservative government in the past.

Challenge 2 is a forest products research and design centre. Forestry is the largest industry in northern Ontario, but very few finished products are produced there. A research centre in the north could be used to design and develop products leading to new secondary manufacturing opportunities in northern Ontario. It is about time we had a government that encouraged the manufacture of products that made sense in the north.

Challenge 3 is a deep-sea harbour. Along with the educational and research and design facilities already mentioned, the government must focus on infrastructure to encourage and develop new industrial growth. To encourage secondary industry in Sault Ste. Marie, adequate docking facilities must be available. Drydocks could be developed to service upper Great Lakes vessels. The Sault is sensibly located to become a regional transportation centre.

Challenge 4 concerns the mining machinery industry. Canada is the third largest mineral

producer in the world, but we import almost 90 per cent of our mining machinery. Most of that should be produced in Canada. In 1982, the Ontario Centre for Resource Machinery Technology was opened to help develop the mining machinery industry. To date, a meagre \$3 million has been spent owing to a lack of initiative by the Conservatives.

Sault Ste. Marie is the logical centre for mining machinery production in Canada. We have the kind of heavy plate steel needed. We have the skilled labour available. We are located on water in northern Ontario close to the mines.

Challenge 5 concerns the automotive industry, Ontario's largest industry. Algoma Steel is the major supplier of steel to auto parts producers in southern Ontario and Michigan. Sault Ste. Marie deserves a share of the secondary steel industries in Ontario just as much as Hamilton and Windsor do.

In 1983, the Federal Task Force on the Canadian Automobile and Auto Parts Industries published its report. This task force was composed of representatives of the automotive and auto parts industries and the United Auto Workers. It recommended the introduction of Canadian-content legislation and concluded that such a policy could generate 80,000 direct manufacturing jobs in Canada over five years. Many of these secondary industry jobs could go to the Sault. But instead of creating new jobs, we are losing the existing ones.

The voluntary export restraint expired on March 31 with the Conservatives expressing hope that the Japanese would not flood our markets. According to auto industry estimates, the failure of the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) to stand up for Ontario will eliminate more than 20,000 jobs in Canadian assembly and parts manufacturing industries. This does not include spinoff effects such as the loss of steel jobs in Hamilton and Sault Ste. Marie.

As Industry and Trade critic, I want to see that Canadian jobs in the steel and auto industries are protected. Steel industry officials have indicated to me their strong support for continued automotive export restraints not only on Japan but also on Korea. These restraints have resulted in investment in Ontario and more jobs at Algoma Steel. We need a commitment from Japan and Korea for significant investment in Ontario and provision for Canadian content. The Japanese invest in countries only when forced to. It is time Ontario workers got jobs from Japanese cars.

Challenge 6 concerns the furniture industry. Furniture manufacturing is a labour-intensive

craft industry which develops many skills. It lends itself to small-business operation and provides another opportunity to displace imported goods. Its success derives from the quality of design and marketing. The development of this industry could be stimulated by a forest products research and design centre, as I mentioned earlier.

Challenge 7 is the reforestation of Algoma's timber lands. St. Marys Paper has to go well past White River to get the timber it needs because Algoma has been logged out. This is an example of the Conservatives' abysmal record on reforestation in this province. A major renewal program in Algoma's wilderness could generate hundreds of jobs for our youth today.

Challenge 8 is tourism and wilderness preservation. Here lies a major opportunity for job creation. Tourism has been, and will continue to be, a major opportunity for job creation, and Sault Ste. Marie is the gateway to the greatest wilderness area in central North America.

Most tourists who visit the Sault and Algoma come to enjoy our wilderness areas. However, environmental cleanup and renewal of our wilderness is a major concern that has not been addressed over the past 42 years by this Conservative government. We must expand Ontario's network of wilderness parks. The Tories favour mining in wilderness parks and hunting in nature reserves. I believe people want wilderness parks where they can enjoy themselves and get away from it all for a few days.

5:30 p.m.

Challenge 9 is northern alternative energy sources. The natural resources are here for alternatives in energy development. We have fast-flowing rivers for small-scale and medium-scale hydro development, forest byproducts for alternative fuels and the potential for wind energy. These could reduce our regional dependence on expensive, imported energy. It is also about time we had a government that did something about the high price of gasoline and home heating oil in northern Ontario.

Challenge 10 is a northern Ontario heritage fund. It is time we considered instituting a heritage fund modelled on those of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Some of the wealth created in the north should stay in the north. It should be reinvested in infrastructure and other projects such as I have outlined previously. The northern Ontario heritage fund would be a major step in meeting the challenges facing Sault Ste. Marie and other northern communities. I know all of us

in Sault Ste. Marie want to re-create the city as we knew it.

I look forward to working diligently with the other members of this assembly in making Ontario a more prosperous and more liveable place for all our residents.

Before concluding, I want to comment on the significance this day has for me. In a way it seems like a coincidence but today, June 13, is the anniversary of a few things that happened in my life. On this day in 1974–in fact, it was also on a Thursday–I graduated from Harvard University. That was an equally significant day for me, and I think it is a coincidence that I should be here giving my speech in the throne speech debate on Thursday, June 13.

The year following that, I purposely scheduled my general exams leading to my doctoral work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for June 13, a Friday the 13th, and fortunately, I passed them on that day.

The first June 13 I can remember of real significance occurred in 1969; it was also a Friday the 13th. My grandfather came flying into the house that morning and told me I had just won the First Canadian Mathematical Olympiad and was awarded a \$6,000 scholarship as a result.

Since then, June 13, whether it is a Friday or not, has always been a special day for me. It just occurred to me while waiting to give this speech that this again would be a June 13.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You will probably bring down the government.

Mr. Morin-Strom: That is right. If we go back even further to the year I was born, coincidentally I was born exactly two weeks to the day following a Friday, June 13, in 1952.

On that note I am very pleased to be able to make my maiden speech on a June 13, and I look forward to many years of serving the city of Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. McCaffrey: As others have done before me, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate all the newly elected members of this Legislature. In particular, I want to compliment the mover and seconder of the motion for a reply to the speech from the throne, the member for Oakville (Mr. O'Connor) and the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland).

Also at this time I want to compliment both the Liberal and New Democratic Party candidates in the recent election in my home constituency of Armourdale, Gino Matrundola and Bob Hebdon. As members know, they nearly got me. I know a little bit about partisan politics and the way some parties operate, and I would just like to say to

Gino Matrundola—I may send him a copy of this speech—that undoubtedly there will be people around who will say, "Now you have just about done it"—it was 200 votes, as I recall—"they may wish to bring in someone else to run." I just want Gino to know I think he should stick to his guns. In fact, I would strongly recommend that he be nominated again as quickly as possible and not let those people push him around.

I say to the newly elected MPPs, I cannot help but recall my own feelings upon coming into this assembly when I was first elected in 1977. I felt a certain awe about the building and this room. There is something quite splendid about this assembly. I felt a tremendous amount of pride as I walked up the steps of this Legislature for the first time, and I had a deep conviction that the work done here in this assembly and in its committees was important and relevant.

Today, eight or so years later, after having had a chance to serve on various committees, and having been chairman of a number of standing and select committees of this assembly as well as a parliamentary assistant and having had a chance to serve in cabinet for some three years, I still feel some awe about this building and the process. I still feel a great sense of pride in the work we are sent here to do, and I still have a conviction that what we do here and in the committees of this House is important.

However, usually I do not feel the work we do here is as relevant as it could be, and I think it is incumbent upon all of us, new MPPs or otherwise, to do what we can to make it so.

There is a serious and immediate need to reform the procedures of this place with a view to making the role of private members more relevant and businesslike. At another time, I hope in the standing committee on procedural affairs on which I wish to serve, I intend to offer some detailed suggestions based on my eight years around this place as to how we might accomplish that. However, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I want to touch on a couple of those recommendations right now.

First, I want to mention the absurd sitting times of this assembly. Sitting from two to six and from eight until 10:30 p.m. makes absolutely no sense. When I first raised this matter in 1977 with some of my colleagues in the assembly from all three parties, I was most often told: "Do not complain. It was only a few years ago, around 1975, that this assembly would often sit until two or three in the morning."

As I have said, I want to elaborate on this matter at another time and in another forum, but I

would recommend that this assembly sit from nine o'clock until five and in the evenings when necessary. If it is necessary to accommodate the media, question period still could be held at two o'clock. We could break for lunch from one o'clock until two and reconvene for prayers at two o'clock.

To accommodate citizens who wish to make submissions, committees holding public hearings could and should sit in the evenings. Times for members to meet with constituents could be arranged easily within that nine-to-five schedule. One of the things to which we might seriously put our minds in order to help accommodate that matter and other things would be to introduce some form of pairing of members in this assembly.

5:40 p.m.

On the matter of committees, I would like to make one or two observations on the per diem allowances paid to members who serve on committees that meet when the assembly is not in session. Specifically, I refer to the recommendations made in the eighth report of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses tabled June 5, 1985. "The commission is of the opinion that the per diem allowances for committee work should be doubled from \$63 per day...to \$126 per day...and that the per diem allowances for committee work should be fully taxable...."

If per diems are to continue, and that could be debated at another point, I hope we will raise the whole question of remuneration, either in the procedural affairs committee or, more likely, speaking for myself, at the first opportunity I have in private members' hour. But if per diems are to continue, obviously they should be fully taxable.

Let me express now my disappointment that the commission did not deal with the expense allowance portion of a member's salary. According to the report, the basic indemnity at present is \$34,808. We have an expense allowance, that being tax free, of \$11,686 per year. In its proposals, the commission recommended an increase in salaries to \$40,000 but maintained the same expense allowance of \$11,686 tax free.

The tax-free expense allowance portion of our salaries should be immediately abolished. I think it should be grossed up, with the appropriate tax and other deductions taken off monthly. In this way, members will receive the same net pay as they do at present.

In fairness, I am not calling for a reduction in the salaries expected by members; therefore, those who budgeted or made assumptions on the basis of the present arrangement would not receive less. But if that expense portion were grossed up, their salaries would be more fairly and honestly described to the people who pay taxes in the province. It is simply unacceptable that a member of this assembly, charged with the responsibility of spending public money raised through taxes, should have any portion of his salary free of the prevailing rate of tax.

I would like to give one specific example of why I believe so strongly that we should do this at the earliest opportunity. To quote from the speech from the throne, page 25, the government says: "As part of tax reform, to ensure more equitable health care financing, my government will freeze Ontario health insurance plan premiums and steadily raise premium assistance. My government will progressively employ tax sources less onerous to low-income families in order to finance this essential service."

I have some difficulty at this point understanding what those less onerous tax sources will be, but that will be amplified, no doubt, in the future.

What I do know is that the Liberal-New Democratic Party group is committed to abolishing health premiums and, make no mistake about it, this move will have an immediate and serious impact on our present levels of personal income tax. I think we as members of the Legislature, on both sides of the House, should have the opportunity to see this immediate and serious impact in our own wages.

For example, in our last budget the premiums in place in this province raised \$1.597 billion. To raise that amount of money, I submit, there are only three sources open to the new government: personal income tax, corporate income tax and retail sales tax. It does not take very much imagination to know that the new government will not increase retail sales tax by the number of points that would be required to raise \$1.597 billion. Therefore, I suspect it will come in with something like a blending of personal income tax and corporate income tax increases.

We know of the increasing number of families in Ontario in which both parents work. At present, one of those parents assumes the cost of health premiums. When the personal income tax rates increase, as they will for both parties, to offset this route of premium revenue-raising, those families will pay significantly more than they do at present and it will be reflected in their take-home pay. It is only right and proper that it be fully reflected in our take-home pay as well.

I would like to make some observations on the issue of equal pay for work of equal value, as

well as a comment or two on extra billing. With regard to equal pay for work of equal value, I want you to know, Mr. Speaker, that I approached this issue with the strong belief that the marketplace works and that this is not a method to close the wage gap between men and women.

Over time in the real world, prices paid for products and services do find their proper and fair balance. A snapshot that froze those prices at any moment would show imbalances, whether we were talking about some basic commodity prices, such as gold, oil—which is fairly topical these days—or copper; whether we were talking about housing prices or the cost of money as measured by interest rates; or whether we were talking about services and salaries paid to workers. All of these products are in a constant state of movement. They are adjusting to dozens of factors in the real world, but they are always seeking a fair and proper balance.

A snapshot today would show there is a serious wage gap between men and women in some areas. Many of us could elaborate on the historical reasons for this fact, but there is indeed a gap. What this snapshot would fail to show is that we are in the midst now of a major social revolution where the traditional male-female roles are in a constant state of flux. This snapshot would fail to show the rapid changes in women's roles and incomes, and, in particular, in some businesses.

Before I was elected, I was in the investment business, which, conventional wisdom has it, was and is a traditional male preserve. I think historically that was true, but today one would find countless senior women in all aspects of that industry, making very significant amounts of money in most cases.

I want members to know that I oppose the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. It is regressive and unworkable in both the public and the private sector and it will thwart opportunities for both men and women. If I may, I would like to raise some specific points on the question.

There are four basic models of job evaluation. Someone somewhere will have to decide which one of these basic models is the most appropriate. We know that no system of job evaluation is completely free of bias. How can we ensure that any chosen system would be free of bias?

For example, will job evaluation be done on a company-by-company basis, or will it be centrally established? Will central guidelines be produced and, if so, how detailed will those guidelines be? What provisions will force com-

panies to comply? What exceptions will be allowed, if any? Is any one job-evaluation model appropriate for all types of businesses? Does one allow different types of models to be used based on their appropriateness to a particular type of business? Who decides which model is most appropriate? What are the criteria for this decision? What impact does this have on pay scales between different industries?

Current models of job evaluation are very abstract. To what degree should they be modified by factors such as the differences in job definition between companies? Job A in a large company would be quite different from job B in a smaller company. That is no less true in the public service than it is in the private sector.

What about the differences in job definition between industries? Job A in industry A would be quite different from job B in industry B. How does one evaluate jobs in a company where job functions are loose and not clearly defined? In some instances, exceptional workers in a given job classification will have job functions that are uniquely tailored to them, designed for them. That, by the way, is as true in the public service as it is in the private sector. How will this be resolved with respect to job evaluation?

5:50 p.m.

We all know and we have all talked about the fact that changing technology has an impact on job value. A technological advance may result in a job classification becoming more important or less important to a company. New job classifications may be created. How often are decisions about these job evaluations to be reviewed by these job judges, as I will call them?

Once all the problems connected with job evaluation are solved, a method must be found to establish job value in real dollars and cents. Who will make that determination? Is this made on a company-by-company basis? Is it to be centrally established? Are central guidelines produced? How detailed should they be and what sanctions should be included to ensure company compliance? What exemptions will there be, if any?

If job A is determined to be worth more to a company than job B, how is the actual amount determined? Who determines how much more one job is worth than another? Is this the task of the job judge?

How does this process affect unions and the negotiation process? If, in a company composed of unionized workers, a determination is made that job A is worth so much to that company, does this impose an effective limitation on a union during contract negotiations? What sanc-

tions are imposed to ensure union compliance? Again, what exemptions are allowed?

To what degree should the following factors influence the determination of pay provisions: the company's financial situation and the availability of qualified workers to fill particular jobs. If there is a shortage of people qualified to perform job A, should a company be allowed to pay more than the position is normally worth to attract workers? This is a key question and one that would occur daily in this province.

Who determines when the shortage exists? What criteria are used? What if the shortage is regional in nature? Again, the phenomenon is quite common in this province. Since shortages come and go, how often is the decision reviewed? When the shortage has ended, what happens to the salaries paid to workers hired during that shortage?

What happens to the exceptional worker? Sometimes, because of unique abilities and experience, a worker is paid more than othersagain I say in the public service as much as in the private sector.

If this individual's salary were averaged in with the salaries for others in a particular job classification, it would artificially inflate the wage levels for the group as a whole—or is that higher salary simply reduced?

It is difficult to determine how much a company is paying a job classification. If the payment is made on a commission, full- or part-time basis, the amounts vary greatly from individual to individual and it is difficult to establish defined pay limits. Bonuses present many of the same problems. As well, bonuses can greatly inflate the value of a job in any given year. However, like commissions, they can fluctuate wildly from year to year.

Benefit packages can be used to enhance the value of a job. Should they be included in the determination of the pay provisions? While some benefit packages are essentially the same for all workers in a given job, they are often individually set and vary greatly from person to person. As well, they differ from company to company and industry to industry.

Once job evaluations and accompanying pay provisions are established, a method for correcting inequities must be determined. Should a company correct inequities at once, or gradually over a period of time? Who determines how much and how soon?

If people performing job A should be paid more than people performing job B, does this mean that people doing job B have been paid too much, or the people performing job A have been paid too little? If the discrepancy is to be corrected gradually, should people in job A receive greater than normal increases, while people in job B receive normal increases until equity is achieved, or should people in job A receive normal increases while people in the other job receive less than normal increases?

Does a determination of pay inequity supersede a signed, negotiated contract? How much impact should it have on future contract negotiations? If one union represents workers in both jobs A and B, must it agree to hold up one group while the other catches up?

What if two different unions represent the two jobs? Do the interests of one union take a back seat to the interests of the other? What if one job is unionized and the other is not? Should sanctions be imposed to ensure that unions will allow inequities to be corrected?

Once all of this is done, should there be an avenue for appeal or review? It seems fair to me that there would, again in both the public service and the private sector. To whom is this appeal made? When are appeals allowed? Who makes the appeal and what should the appeal process be?

In general, what impact will this compensation equity have on the free market? What impact will it have on the competitiveness of Ontario industries and individual firms, on worker mobility and on closing the wage gap between men and women? On that key point, I would suggest it will be negligible, if there is any, and it will be achieved at a great cost to both men and women.

What impact will it have on the size and cost of government bureaucracy? That is an easy one. It will be immediate and there will be a massive increase in the number of job judges working throughout the public and private sectors.

Can the system work without public disclosure of a company's financial records? I think not.

What impact would such disclosures have and what steps would the new government take to ensure confidentiality and privacy? I would make a recommendation now that I have made at another time and place. When they have 25 or 30 different ministers, the new government will find that each of them—and we have just seen a lot about this in the paper in the last couple of days—will have people on contract, their personal staff. Among those six or eight people, however many they have, there will be some jobs that are hard to define. "Legislative assistant" might be one of those, or "executive assistant" or "re-

search assistant." Those are not easy to define. They are as difficult to define as a lot of jobs in

the private sector.

The ministers will have an opportunity to address the classic male-female problem through the driver, or chauffeur, and the secretary; the latter is female, for the most part, and drivers are almost always male.

I will make this recommendation sincerely to the new government: Before it undertakes to bring in this legislation for equal pay for work of equal value and thrust it on the real world, as an internal exercise it should have one of these job judges from the Ministry of Labour do an evaluation, using a grid or whatever form it chooses, for those people on the ministers' personal staff, and bring that back to the executive council. There will be nobody to criticize it and they will be able to see, in my judgement, that it is not workable. I believe they will see it does not speak to the male-female wage gaps and, without fear of being embarrassed, I think they would see it is simply inadequate to deal with the kinds of problems we pretend we can deal with through legislation.

I would say in closing on that particular issue, one fights the marketplace at some peril and I think this concept of equal pay for work of equal value will simply put in place some permanent imbalances and will cost both men and women.

Mr. Speaker, I am in your hands, but I wanted to speak about extra billing and a few other matters.

The Deputy Speaker: I suggest to the member that we are getting close to six o'clock and the government House leader wishes to speak to the agenda for next week, so perhaps you could continue at eight o'clock.

Mr. McCaffrey: I shall. Thank you.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I might indicate now the business of the House for the coming week.

Tonight, tomorrow and Monday afternoon, June 17, and Tuesday afternoon, June 18, there will be debate on the motion in reply to the speech from the throne.

I will invite members to drop around, particularly on Monday, when the government House leader will be participating in the throne speech debate.

The vote on the motion, by agreement of the House leaders, will be at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday next, June 18. Members should not miss it. I will at that time perhaps have a further business statement.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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No. 8

Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 33rd Parliament Thursday, June 13, 1985 **Evening Sitting**

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, June 13, 1985

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. McCaffrey: Just before the dinner break, I was concluding my comments on the matter of equal pay for work of equal value. Just to summarize, I was saying I oppose both the principle and the practice of equal pay for work of equal value. It is unworkable and regressive, in my judgement, in both the public sector and the private sector and will thwart opportunities for both men and women in our society.

I would like to make a couple of comments about extra billing and some more general observations about the speech from the throne. With regard to extra billing, I would like to say at the outset that the very name itself implies that somebody is getting something to which he is not entitled. It is wise to remember that when medicare was established 18 years ago, doctors agreed to it, provided they could retain the right to opt out of the plan.

Honouring this deal, or this social contract, is very important to us. I was proud that the government did not ban extra billing in the speech from the throne to which we are speaking tonight, but I am very concerned that the likely new government next week will carry on with its determination to do just that.

I think it is wise to remember that less than five per cent of the total claims processed by the Ontario health insurance plan cover services performed on an opted-out basis. Many doctors who have opted out do not charge rates in excess of OHIP, having opted out on a point of principle. Most general practitioners in our province have not opted out, and specialists always take into account a patient's ability to pay.

The option of opting out gives the profession a way to deal with problems in the OHIP fee schedule without ever having to withdraw its services and, as the Leader of the Opposition

(Mr. Peterson) used to say, it provides a safety valve.

Opting out provides doctors who are more experienced and highly skilled with a way of having their ability recognized. The ability to opt out ensures that first-rate doctors will remain in our province. If doctors are denied the option, specialists are the most likely to leave, and they are the hardest to replace.

I think we know it is no accident that we have world-class specialists in this jurisdiction. Instead of trying to end extra billing by negotiating a complicated fee schedule high enough to satisfy everyone, it is better to establish a general fee schedule at average rates and allow the few who have problems with it to opt out.

The following steps have been taken to ensure that extra billing does not compromise accessibility to our health services. We have a province-wide telephone system, which assists the public in locating opted-in doctors when that is necessary. A joint Ontario Medical Association and Ministry of Health committee reviews patient complaints about billing. We have regulations under the Health Disciplines Act which provide that doctors who extra bill must notify their patients in advance of treatment of the amount of that extra fee.

Medicare was designed as a floor plan to ensure that everyone could afford adequate health care. As the system stands now, it accomplishes that goal. Make no mistake about it; we will be the losers as some highly skilled and impossible-to-replace specialists will leave this province.

Again, I would like to compliment the government on the speech from the throne for its very strong pollution control measures and its determination to continue to assist small and medium-sized companies through tax holidays and other measures.

I am disappointed that the government has gone as far as it has in so many areas. We have all but obliterated any differences in policies between ourselves and the other two parties. In many ways it is too much, too late. Everyone in this chamber feels as I do that we are going through a historic period in our province because

of the events following May 2 and the expected change in the government next Tuesday.

Less dramatic, but in my view far more sobering, is the fact that while we have three political parties in Ontario, we appear to have only one view on too vast a range of important issues: the extension of separate school funding and the nondebate on that matter; equal pay for work of equal value; very major changes in our approach to rent controls in Ontario; and the most recently announced family law reform amendments.

Recent events leave many people to believe that televised debates among our party leaders will become an expected part of future election campaigns in our province. If that is so, and in the light of this speech from the throne, in future it is going to be a lot easier to get the three leaders to the same television studio at the same time than it will be to find issues for them to debate.

Ms. Caplan: Mr. Speaker, please accept my sincere congratulations on your appointment and my best wishes. I also would like to extend congratulations to the Deputy Speaker and the Chairman of committees. I believe your collective responsibilities during this time of transition will prove onerous but historic.

These are indeed historic times. On May 2 the people of Ontario, including my constituents in the riding of Oriole, clearly sent a message and a messenger to this House. The message was their desire for change, a fresh approach, and the messenger, a new member.

I would like publicly to acknowledge the contribution of John Williams, who served the people of Oriole for the past decade. My riding, located in the heart of Metropolitan Toronto, is the pulse of the city with a heart, the city of North York.

I have listened to my colleagues on both sides of this House during the past week as they described their ridings. Many of them—in particular the new members and the members from urban centres—have spoken of my riding of Oriole as well. What many of them suggest is unique is no longer unique to Ontario. It has become the norm, the new face of Ontario. Ontario has changed during the last 42 years. It is time for the government of Ontario to recognize that change and respond.

8:10 p.m.

I am proud to represent a riding that, like so many others, reflects the cultural richness and diversity of our mosaic. My constituents are from all walks of life, from all socioeconomic backgrounds. On the streets one hears people speaking Arabic, Armenian, Bengali, Cantonese, Dawat, Dutch, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Gujarti, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Malayalam, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Swahili, Tagalog, Tamil, Turkish and Vietnamese, just to name a few.

The heritage language programs flourish, as children who are proud to be Canadian, proud to be Ontarians and proud to be North Yorkers also enrich their lives and ours by learning and sustaining pride in their heritage, by strengthening their roots and ours.

In the shops, in the plazas—in the Peanut Plaza in particular—and in the restaurants, Caravan as we know it once a year continues year-round. Samosas, papadams, curries, patties and baklava are sold next door to egg rolls, pizza, Kentucky fried chicken and McDonald's hamburgers.

However, the riding of Oriole, like many ridings across this great province, voted clearly and decisively for change. My constituents are concerned about the future awaiting them, their parents and grandparents, and especially their children. They are concerned about education and training, job creation, health care—especially for a growing elderly population—our environment, fair taxation, child care, public transit, social services, tenant protection and affordable housing. The needs of the 1980s must be addressed before they become the crises of the 1990s.

Where will our children find work? Are we committed to excellence and quality in education in this province? Where will people live? How will individuals and families in crisis be helped? The throne speech calls for a \$100-million quality education fund. Why? Because this government allowed the confidence in our education system, along with the standards, to decline at every level and because our education system is in jeopardy. The throne speech, which borrowed heavily from Liberal policy, is more than an apology; it is a statement of a tired government that is simply and clearly out of touch.

I realize, and my constituents know, that their goals and desires cannot be achieved immediately and that we must go forth within a framework of fiscal responsibility; but the work must begin immediately. We want a government that is committed to progress and that will not have to be carried kicking and screaming into the 1990s. We want a government that will not wait for the voters to say, as they did on May 2, "We just do not trust you any more."

My constituents have spoken. They have voted no confidence in this Conservative government, its complacency, arrogance and self-serving style of governing Ontario. What was good enough 40 years ago is out of touch today. That is the message.

The people of Ontario and the people of Oriole want a government that is committed to equal opportunity for all—men, women, minority and majority groups, young and old—and equal opportunity in education, jobs, housing, health care and every aspect of our life and our society. The women of Oriole and Ontario have said clearly that simple justice demands equality and economic equity now.

As members of this Legislature, this august body housed in this wonderful building in this beautiful chamber seething with tradition, we must not lose sight of the fact that our duty is to serve the people who put us here. It is our sacred trust, and I use the term "sacred trust" deliberately because I believe my constituents, and especially my senior constituents, are feeling betrayed.

They are cynical of what some politicians tell them at election time, what some politicians promise them in throne speeches and then what some try to do to them rather than do for them. We must restore their faith. Blatant, partisan, political patronage as we know it in Ontario must become a thing of the past.

Mr. Foulds: Just as it did federally with a change of government.

Ms. Caplan: I am pleased we all agree.

Appointment to public office must be based on merit and representative of our population. The process of government in this province must be altered and reformed to make it more responsive. These are historic times. I look forward with a sense of anticipation to the future. The verbal sparring, especially during question period in the past few days, must have proven an inauguration for some new members. Arriving after six and a half years as an alderman on the council of North York, I feel right at home.

Allow me a prediction. I foresee a renewed interest by the population of Ontario, excited by the opportunities at hand. The days of bland are over. I am honoured to be the new member for Oriole. I will serve with vigour and integrity.

Mr. Hayes: It is an honour for me to have this opportunity to address this assembly and participate in the debate on the throne speech of this first session of the 33rd Parliament in Ontario.

I come from a riding that consists of 11 municipalities and a large number of villages and

hamlets. Essex North is a mixture of urban and rural areas. A large part borders on the south shores of Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River. It is well known for its fishing. People come even from northern Ontario to fish in Lake St. Clair. Without offending any of the fellows from the north, I still enjoy going north for fishing and camping with my family and relaxing.

Essex North has farming, recreation and industry. We have vegetable growers, cash crop and dairy farmers, hog, beef and chicken producers. The riding also borders on Windsor. A lot of people are dependent on the auto and related industries in the city. When the auto industry suffers, so do the people in Essex North, along with the people of Windsor. A large number of our farmers have to supplement their incomes in order to keep their farms. For too long they have been underpaid for their labour and products.

If farmers received a fair price for their labour and products, it would help the whole economy because farmers would leave their other jobs. This would create employment for other people, and they would all be putting money into the system to strengthen our economy. A commonsense approach would be to support and help the farmer and his cause.

This Tory government has ignored the farmers because they are a small percentage of the electorate. It has only seen fit to hand out cheques to large corporations without any guarantees for jobs or any commitments that the companies purchase Canadian-produced parts.

8:20 p.m.

I am quite excited to be a new member of this Legislature. I am also excited at being part of making history. I have served in municipal and county governments and on various boards. However, I must admit this is a new and challenging experience for me, and I hope I can contribute to making this a better government for the people of Ontario.

I am a member of the labour movement and very proud of it. If it were not for my involvement in serving and helping people in the labour movement, I might never have involved myself in politics even at the municipal level. In the labour movement, one does not only serve the people in his or her own union; one also gets involved in helping people in need outside the work place. People in the labour movement volunteer their time for organizations such as the United Way, the heart fund, youth groups, church groups, minor sports and many other

organizations. They do that because they believe in helping people.

The member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) made some comments about labour pulling the strings in the New Democratic Party. He is not only a new member but also a very naïve one if he believes that. Labour supports the New Democratic Party because it knows the New Democratic Party is a people party that puts people ahead of profits.

I was successful on May 2 because, yes, I had labour support; but I also had support from office workers, teachers, farmers, small business people, students, housewives, retirees, professional people, priests and many others who believed in me and in the New Democratic Party.

I have a reputation for listening to people's concerns and acting on them to the best of my ability, unlike the members of the Tory party, who have not been listening to the people for a long time.

Mr. Wiseman: Who wrote this speech for you? The labour movement?

Mr. Hayes: Yes, I am with the labour movement.

The Tories heard loud and clear from the people on May 2, though. They heard the message that an arrogant, majority Tory government was no longer wanted.

After all these years, I find it hard to swallow the nerve of the Tory government saying no to so many issues that New Democrats have raised in this Legislature. Now that they are being brought down from their ivory tower they are saying, "We agree with the New Democrats."

I want to touch on a few issues I am pleased to see in the throne speech; but I wonder: why are they just showing up now? Where were they last year? Where were they five years ago, 10 years ago or even longer ago than that?

One of the issues is health and safety. Today the Tories are saying, "We will introduce right-to-know legislation." In the past they could not do it because the information, as they call it, was a trade secret. Were they afraid the workers would start their own chemical business if they knew what they were working with?

Even if the Tory government is serious about right-to-know legislation, I question its sincerity in enforcing it. Would it enforce the legislation the way it did at Valenite in Windsor? There were 29 directives in 10 years, but there was no enforcement. Would the government enforce it as it did with Bendix and issue directives without enforcing them, allowing corporations to get away with exposing workers to hazardous

substances to the extent that some of the workers have become disabled and have even died from the exposure; and then refusing to put in plant closure legislation and letting companies close their doors and move to another country rather than living up to their obligations?

Let me turn to transportation. It is quite obvious Essex North is not a Tory stronghold. When one is travelling west on Highway 401 and dozing in the back seat, one knows when one is getting close to home because one gets the feeling the driver has chosen to travel down a railway track over the ties.

I am assuming the role of Transportation and Communications critic. In the short time I have had to learn more about that portfolio, I have been dismayed to find the provincial road system has deteriorated terribly. The Canadian Construction Association stated recently that almost 2,000 kilometres of provincial highways are already below provincial standards. The CCA also found that another 7,000 kilometres will need resurfacing and reconstruction in the near future. The Ontario Good Roads Association has pointed to similar serious problems with our municipal road system.

After all these years the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) and his Tory government have now promised to fill the potholes; but they are the people who created the mess our road system is in today. This is another good reason we are forcing the Premier and the Tories off the road.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this, my maiden speech, I want to contribute to making a better government for the people of Ontario. I am proud that when I cast my very first vote in this House next Tuesday afternoon it will be to defeat the government and make way for the agenda for reform.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues on all sides of the House in wishing you the very best of success in your new responsibilities. I want you to know, speaking on behalf of the party of which I am a very proud representative, we are delighted with your appointment and offer you our complete cooperation and support in the very interesting and challenging days ahead.

I have a few other remarks I want to make. I know there are those who might suggest I would be ahead if I stopped at this point. However, I have heard the long litany of comments made by some of those who sit opposite me in the House and I want to address some of the comments they have made and suggest the Ontario seen from their point of view is perhaps not quite the same

picture as is seen from this side of the House, where we see Ontario in a much clearer and more positive way than they ever have.

I have had the opportunity to serve on the executive council of this government both as the Minister of the Environment and more recently as the Minister of Industry and Trade, the position I currently hold in a very proud fashion as I represent the government of this province.

8:30 p.m.

I listened with interest and my attention was literally glued on the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) as he addressed the throne speech, a speech he had made up his mind to defeat and vote against along with the third party before ever having heard it. That in itself is unprecedented in the history of parliament. I say with all due respect—I do not want to sound challenging when I make these remarks—it suggests the political rhetoric from that side of the House as it relates to the throne speech is nothing more than window-dressing.

They have made up their minds. It is not a question of making minority government work. It is not a question of making programs that are progressive and in tune with the times work. It is a question of power. That is all it is about on that side of the House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The members opposite will have their time shortly.

I want to quote what the Leader of the Opposition said. Obviously, he must have been smoking funny cigarettes that day. I took this rather personally, and I am going to quote from Hansard to be absolutely certain there is no question about the authenticity and accuracy of the remarks that were made by the Leader of the Opposition.

Trade, and I am not being critical of any particular one, who has done essentially two things. He has travelled abroad selling our products on trade missions, all quite wonderful and worth while, and he has run around bailing out and trying to prop up failing industries.

"Both of these activities belie the fundamental changes"—if I may interject for a moment, he said this in a rather dramatic fashion—"that are going on in our society today, the move to high technology....

"Many of our traditional industries are under siege today, and many may not be there, at least in the same form, five, 10 or 20 years from now. We have to ask ourselves where our kids are going to work. Where are they going to find the kind of opportunity to allow them to make their choices to build their kinds of lives and have their own economic opportunities?"

That is taken from pages 72 and 73 of the official report of the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition in his response to the throne speech.

First of all, if that is their leader's perception of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, then those people over there are a sorry lot because, speaking not only on my own behalf but also on behalf of those Ministers of Industry and Trade who have served in a most satisfactory fashion in the years preceding me, I have to say those ministers have not seen their role in this government as that of travelling around the world, I assume from the perspective of those opposite, on some kind of junket and bailing out industries that are not able to make it in the marketplace today. There is a great deal more than that to the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

I want to suggest to you, Mr. Speaker—and I want the members opposite to listen very carefully to some of the things I am about to say, because it is going to hurt a little bit—the fact is that at the end of 1984 this government, in part through the activities of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, had reached the highest level of exports in the history of this province, namely, some \$55 billion in sales, a record that is unsurpassed anywhere in the entire country.

Mr. Nixon: Was that \$55 million?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I said \$55 billion. If the honourable member had listened carefully he would have heard the number.

What does that mean with respect to jobs? It means that if one compared all the jobs created in the rest of Canada, in the nine other provinces from British Columbia right through to Newfoundland, with those in Ontario, one would see—not on the basis of the political rhetoric heard on that side of the House, but on the basis of statistical facts—that Ontario has created more jobs than the nine other provinces combined.

I know the members opposite do not want to hear these things. They want to talk about the insensitivity and arrogance of the government and those absolutely meaningless political phrases that may sell well on some sidewalks of this community. However, I have to tell them that when it gets right down to the facts, when it gets right down to where the action is really taking place, no province in this entire country has a better track record of fiscal responsibility,

controlled government and job creation than Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I have no doubt that is going to be for a very short time.

Mr. Foulds: Then you are going to disappear altogether.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Unlike the members opposite, we are not lost in the wilderness. This party has a direction. This party has a leader and we know where we are going; that is something the members opposite do not know.

Mr. Breaugh: Where are you lost?

Mr. Foulds: Tell us where you are lost. This is your first leadership speech.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I can see it is feeding time over there. Obviously they are having some difficulty. They do not want to hear these things because they happen to be the truth; that is why they do not want to hear them.

When one talks to people around this great province of ours, the greatest province in all of Canada, about the kinds of activities that are going on in this House tonight, they ask, "How can you possibly carry on and debate intelligently when there are all those catcalls from across the House?" Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you what I do. I attempt with every fibre of my being simply to ignore it. I do, sir. I want you to know that. I attempt not to hear what they are saying, because it upsets me. I am here to participate in this debate and to tell those members the truth and they do not want to hear it.

I want to say a few words about the Ministry of Industry and Trade. I so wish the Leader of the Opposition were here tonight, because it is obvious in his case—I cannot speak for all the members of the second party—that his view of the Ministry of Industry and Trade not only is wrong but also is completely ill-headed.

but also is completely ill-headed.

Mr. Elston: What is ill-headed?

8:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: It is when one is sick in the

upper half.

I have to tell the members opposite the reason I want to elaborate on some of the programs available through the Ministry of Industry and Trade is that I think they are of importance with respect to the future progress, development and expansion of Ontario. The Ministry of Industry and Trade is involved in a number of programs. One of the programs on which I receive letters on

a daily basis is the export success fund. With this program, we help small manufacturing corporations in this province to export their products to various areas of the world. We do that simply because that is where jobs are created.

They are not created through government handouts or through government make-work schemes. They are created through the development of industry to the point where it is competitive, where imports are reduced and exports flowing out of the country or province are increased. That is how real jobs are created.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: We are going to get to that in just a moment.

May I digress? I see we have had a change of Speaker. I want to welcome the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven) to our debate tonight. He is a fine gentleman representing a fine riding. I am so pleased to see him in the chair at this point.

I have listened to the debates very carefully. I have heard speaker after speaker on that side of the House talk about how the people of Ontario voted for change. I have heard speaker after speaker stand up to talk in a righteous fashion about how the people voted for change. When the other side has 48 seats, the third party has 25 seats and we have 52 seats, I have to say the people of this province indicated they were voting for minority government, but they were not voting to throw us out. No, not when we have the largest number of seats in this assembly.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Let me say to the new member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner)—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Would the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) please address his comments through the chair and that will keep the din down a little bit.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Let me ask the member, through the Speaker, whether he went up and down the streets of his great community and said, "If you elect me, you are going to be part of a Liberal-NDP alliance." Let me ask him whether that is the position he put forward.

The people of Ontario did not say that. The people of Ontario may well have said—

Mr. Warner: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: As I recall, the member directed a question through the chair. The response is that as I appeared at the door I asked people, "What would you like?" Unanimously, they said, "We want change."

The Deputy Speaker: I do not believe that was a proper point of order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I do not think so either, I agree.

With respect to that, one would think the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere really got an overwhelming majority. The fact is he was able to beat a very fine member by a very narrow margin. There was no unanimity in his riding about change on this side of the House. I can tell the members that. He should not talk about people asking for change at every door he went to, because they did not. That was not the case whatsoever.

The people of Ontario may well have said they wanted perhaps a greater emphasis on certain areas of government, and our government, which has always been sensitive to the concerns of the people of this province, addressed those very issues in the speech from the throne we are talking about tonight.

As the former Minister of the Environment of this government, I can say that when the people of this province indicated they wanted a greater emphasis on environmental matters, this government addressed that in the speech from the throne in a very direct and responsive fashion.

Mr. Foulds: It is too bad it did not do it while you were the minister.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The fact of the matter is there is no jurisdiction that I am aware of with a finer environmental record than Ontario.

When we talk about the environmental programs in place now, let alone those we are going to build on and we hope add to in the days and the months ahead, there is no jurisdiction that has a better record, that is more sensitive to the environmental concerns of the people of this province, than the government on this side of the House at the present time. Those happen to be the facts.

Mr. McClellan: If it was so good, why did you lose?

Mr. Foulds: That is why the PCBs spilled up near Kenora. That is why you proclaimed the spills bill. You passed it six years ago. Why did you not proclaim it while you were the minister?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) should come to my riding at any time and he will see whether the people are proud of the record of this government. I invite him to come and speak there, and I will even take him out for a coffee in spite of his political leanings.

Mr. Foulds: Come to my riding. I will even take you out for a drink.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I am proud of the record of the government of this province, which has had the honour and opportunity to be the government for 42 years. Our record of achievement is second to none in the entire country.

When people look at the kind of job creation record and the fiscal management we have had, when they take a look at the social programs and the roads and highways the honourable member criticized in his address earlier, the fact of the matter is, when he compares those anywhere there is no program, no service delivered by this province which takes second place in this entire country.

Mr. McClellan: Then why did you lose?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The people of this province may have voted for modest change, but they did not vote for a Liberal-NDP coalition nor, I might add, for an NDP-Conservative coalition or for a Conservative-Liberal coalition. What they did vote for, and I think the honourable member should hear this very clearly, was minority government, and what they suggested was—

An hon. member: That is all they are going to get.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Could I ask the member whether, in fact, the people of this province voted for official bilingualism?

The Deputy Speaker: Member for Sarnia, please keep addressing your remarks through the chair.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I would have to suggest the people of this province did not vote for official bilingualism.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I look forward to that program with some interest. It may be brought forward on the other side. There are a great number of programs that were talked about during the course of the last election that I can say the people of this province did not vote for; they were espoused by the people on the other side of the House.

I caution them to move very carefully on those programs because as watchdogs of responsible government we will be looking on with great interest as this unholy alliance comes together in the days and weeks ahead.

8:50 p.m.

There were very large percentages of the speech from the throne that were part of our

election platform and I want to tell the members opposite that no one on that side of the House had the intestinal fortitude to establish a target for job creation such as this government was prepared to do. In the throne speech, we talked about achieving the rather expansive target, the objective of creating some 200,000 jobs in 1985, which is unheard of in any province in this country. They will not be able to do it because they simply do not understand the people, the industries and the province. I feel sorry for them.

How do members opposite feel, knowing they are talking to a government that currently has the lowest level of unemployment in the entire country? They are sitting over there, making

catcalls-

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Get the facts straight. You do not know what you are talking about.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The facts are straight.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: When did the facts ever concern the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke)?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I say to the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Gillies) it is a delight to know that the level of unemployment among youth, women and workers generally is lower in Ontario than in any other jurisdiction in the country.

I realize the member for Windsor-Riverside gets upset when he hears this because he wants to talk about insensitivity. I want to talk about results and the effectiveness of a government that has served the people of this province well in 42 years.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I challenge the member for Windsor-Riverside, if he can prove there is a lower unemployment rate than that in this province, I will meet him at the restaurant of his choice and be pleased to pay the bill on his behalf, if I am proved wrong.

As the government we have to deal in facts, we have to deal in the realities of the day. We cannot enter into the kind of irresponsible, political rhetoric that is part of the message from that side of the House.

If the member does not know the facts, he should not be shouting information that obviously is incorrect. The reality of the situation is that this province has the lowest level of unemployment. We beat Saskatchewan, we beat Manitoba, we beat every other province in the country.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The member can look it up. He will find that he is wrong. Personally, I

have no malice against the member, but once again, as on so many other matters, he happens to be wrong.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: He is not malicious; he is just living in the past.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: That is the way it is with that party.

In conclusion, I want to say that I stand proudly as a member of this government on the basis of the record we have had over the last number of years. The throne speech that we have put forward for the consideration of the House, which obviously is subject to a deal made between a couple of other parties, is the most responsive, effective and progressive speech from the throne brought forward by any government for the last number of decades. I am proud of that speech from the throne. I am proud of the performance of this government.

The days ahead are going to prove very interesting as we watch the marriage of this unholy alliance that sits opposite us. That does not concern me because the 52 members, of whom I am a proud part, are going to continue to serve, to the best of their ability and in the most effective way, the needs and interests of the nine million people who represent the constituents of Ontario.

Mr. Ward: I am honoured to have the opportunity to respond to the speech from the throne and to use this occasion to follow the tradition of telling this assembly about my riding of Wentworth North.

Prior to the by-election in December, Wentworth North was represented by Eric Cunningham, an energetic and dedicated member who worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents. Eric Cunningham set a standard for serving his constituents that all of us would do well to try to match.

My immediate predecessor, Anne Sloat, never did have the opportunity to take her seat in this chamber. However, Anne and I served together for several years as colleagues on regional council in Hamilton-Wentworth. We were each mayors of neighbouring municipalities and over the years we enjoyed a good friendship and would often commiserate on matters of mutual interest. Anne Sloat can take pride in her outstanding achievement as mayor of Ancaster. She is well respected throughout our region and without question was a dedicated servant of the public.

As I said at the outset, I would like to say a few words about Wentworth North. It is a large and diverse riding, consisting of a part of the west mountain of the city of Hamilton, the town of Ancaster, the historic town of Dundas and Ontario's newest town, Flamborough, of which it was my distinct honour to serve as mayor for the past three years.

Wentworth North is very much a microcosm of Ontario with a combination of rural, suburban and urban areas. The concerns of Wentworth North are the concerns of Ontario. They are the concerns that all of us in this chamber share. We may differ from time to time with respect to how we choose to deal with these concerns; however, His Honour's speech from the throne clearly demonstrates that members on both sides of this House share a common purpose, even if for some members this new-found awareness of the issues in Ontario come by way of a very recent revelation.

My constituents, the people of Wentworth North, have modest and reasonable expectations. They believe their provincial government should be committed to issues such as quality health care, preservation of the environment, a universally sound educational system and reasonable opportunities for employment. Over the past several years, they have begun to question whether the government of this province attaches any priority to these basic issues.

Instead of a commitment to an enhanced quality of life in Ontario, they have watched and wondered as millions have been squandered on the needless purchase of an interest in an oil company. They have seen their property taxes soar as the costs of public education have been transferred away from the provincial Treasury on to their municipal tax bills. Surely an individual's investment in his or her home should not be the basis on which the public education system is funded.

They have lost confidence in the government's commitment to preserve and protect the fragile environment through its refusal to proclaim the spills bill. The people of Wentworth North believe every citizen in this province has a right to access to the best possible health care and yet they have witnessed a diminishing commitment to this essential service.

9 p.m.

Since 1981, we in Wentworth North have experienced the harsh realities of severe unemployment among our young people. As I said earlier, Wentworth North is a large and diverse riding. Some of the best farm land in this province is located in Flamborough and Ancaster. Without question, agriculture remains this province's most vital industry, yet it is becoming

increasingly more difficult for young farmers to continue in their parents' footsteps.

Rural Ontario will no longer accept empty promises as lipservice to its needs. On May 2 rural Ontario also raised its voice to the need for change. On May 2 people from all walks of life and from all parts of Ontario, including Wentworth North, passed judgement on this government. They voted to put an end to complacency and to bring about meaningful change. As the people of Wentworth North expressed their lack of confidence in this government, so did 63 per cent of the voters in Ontario. For this reason and many others, I will be joining members on this side of the House in supporting the motion and the amendment that is before us.

Beyond these very basic issues in Ontario, there are specific matters of concern to my riding and to the region of Hamilton-Wentworth. I had the privilege of serving my community for seven years as a member of council, as deputy mayor and, more recently, as mayor. In addition, I had the honour of serving the region of Hamilton-Wentworth as a member of its council for the past five years. At times that experience caused me to wonder whether this government was even aware of our region's existence.

Nowhere has this neglect been more apparent than in the development of transportation facilities. While other parts of Ontario have benefited from government largess, as arterial roads were developed as provincial highways, my region, the industrial heartland of Ontario, has had to wait for the funds to construct long-overdue arterial roads that would enhance industrial development in this province as well as remove heavy trucks from residential neighbourhoods within the city of Hamilton.

Admittedly, from time to time we have been the beneficiary of government funding for studies of transportation facilities using unproven technology, but even in these instances our region has been left with "take it or leave it" propositions for transportation facilities that are unacceptable. As recently as Monday, this government conceded it had wasted three years of time and \$20 million in public funds to examine new technology when the existing rights of way and the existing technology may be appropriate in addressing the transportation needs of our region.

Another basic concern for my riding involves the fundamental democratic rights related to municipal governments. Over the past 10 years my community has come to accept that the regional government system can work, though at times not without difficulty. However, our region has matured politically and there has been a sincere effort to work together throughout the region for the benefit of all our citizens.

Despite this maturing of the local government structure in Hamilton-Wentworth, the government of this province continues to treat our municipalities as children of the province and refuses to give our citizens the basic right to choose their regional chairman by direct ballot.

I am not suggesting this method may be the most appropriate for all regions, although I suspect it is. However, the overwhelming majority of regional councillors representing all municipalities, including the present regional chairman in Hamilton-Wentworth, has requested amending legislation to permit the municipal voters to determine the person most capable of assuming the powers and responsibilities of regional chairman.

On many other issues the previous Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to his credit, was quick to respond to changes in the regional act if no other provincial interests were at stake. However, on this most fundamental issue there has never been a response.

On the issue of job creation, every municipality in Wentworth North has tried to diversify its tax base and provide employment through industrial and commercial development. We have had some success, but we could do so much more. Some of the best industrial land in our region is located at Clappisons Corners in Flamborough. However, we have never been able to secure provincial support to accelerate the development of the servicing infrastructure.

As mayor of Flamborough, I personally have had some experience in trying to access Board of Industrial Leadership and Development funds for industrial development. As recently as last week, I contacted BILD to determine whether some modest funding would be available to provide increased hydro services for a firm that has expanded from two to 46 employees in the past year.

I was told by the staff person at BILD that this company would meet all the criteria for BILD funding—whatever they happen to be—but funding must come by way of the consent of the minister. If I thought this task could be completed in the next five days, perhaps I would pursue this course, but to me there is something inherently wrong with a government funding program that is accessible only at the whim of the sponsoring minister.

These are just a few of the concerns that are specific to my riding. Since May 2 we have seen a government that is prepared to abandon its platform in an effort to retain power. For several years we have experienced a government that has tried from time to time to buy the support of this province's voters with their own money. Within the next few days we will witness a monumental change in the direction of this province, a change that will leave behind the politics of the past.

In any new venture there are some risks and at times we may falter, as the members opposite have been doing for the past several years, but we have a rare opportunity to embark on a new direction in Ontario. I am confident our successes will be overwhelming as we bring about long-overdue progressive legislation. Without question the voters of this province have spoken in support of a change, and a change they must have.

In conclusion, it is a tremendous honour to have had the opportunity to address this House for the first time. I know it will be an onerous task to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors Eric Cunningham, Don Ewen, Ray Connell and, more recently, Mrs. Sloat, but it is a challenge I relish. I regard this opportunity to represent my riding as a distinct privilege and trust. I hope that as time passes I will be able to continue to honour that trust.

Mr. Warner: Since the benches are not filled, it is obvious word was not sent out that I would be engaging this evening in the debate on the speech from the throne. However, I am sure that what is lacking in quantity is more than made up by the quality of the members who are present this evening.

I wish to begin by congratulating the Speaker, the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer). He takes on an onerous task. He has to deal with some members who do not seem to respect the decorum of this place. It is a difficult task being Speaker. He has earned the right. He has served with distinction in this House for quite a few years.

I can say without contradiction that members from all parties have found the member for Perth to be an honourable gentleman and one with whom they could conduct business and have a sincere discussion. He is a man who has worked equally with everyone. It is with some pride that I am able to stand and call him Mr. Speaker.

One aspect of being the Speaker goes beyond this chamber. It is an aspect I saw Mr. Speaker Stokes deal with in what I thought was a grand manner. We are part of a much larger world and

we want to see a time when we try to communicate with other Commonwealth countries and with other jurisdictions in an effort to understand much better what happens in other parts of the world, with an opportunity to co-operate with other places and an opportunity to learn from others. That is an important function in which this Speaker has the opportunity to lead. I am sure the Speaker will do that because he has a vision that goes beyond the province. I look forward to that.

9:10 p.m.

While I am delighted to be back here, I have one note of regret. I had looked forward to a seatmate, James Renwick. I knew Jim for a long time and I do not think one could name a member of the assembly who served any better than the way Jim, for 20 years, served not only the people of his riding but also the people of Ontario. He made his mark in legislation. He made his mark in insurance laws. This province leads the way in setting insurance laws in the world, and James Renwick was an integral part of that process. He was a man of integrity and compassion.

Quite frankly, I found James Renwick to be one of the most remarkable individuals I have ever met. He had so much to give, and we learned from him; I learned from him daily. He was a brilliant man and a hard worker who served his country well. He served, as members know, during the Second World War and was a prisoner of war. He returned to Canada and served as a brilliant lawyer, then as an equally brilliant statesman in this House.

I was really looking forward to being back in this assembly and to working beside Jim once again. Unfortunately, that is not possible, but I wish in my own small way to pay tribute to a man who I think was a very great individual.

I think the members who come into this House from all parties come here with a very large measure of sincerity and want to do a good job for their constituents. Regardless of the philosophical differences across the floor, in my experience the members have always had the interests of their supporters at heart and they do their very best to serve the people of their ridings. Quite frankly, most members try their best to serve the province of Ontario.

There will be differences of philosophy; that is natural. If there were not, I would really worry. Those differences are important. It is those differences that build progressive legislation. It is those differences of philosophy that happen to create change and reform, and without change

and reform we do not grow. So those differences are important, and I welcome them.

I also know members work hard and I know they try to contribute; so do the staff. I would like to pay a small tribute here not only to my caucus mates, who always work quite diligently and are always supportive, but also to the staff in my caucus, because they work as hard as the members, and, similarly, the staff around this building.

I do not know whether the new members have noticed it yet, but whether you go to the Hansard office to find out if you can get a copy of the Instant Hansard to see if it is accurate, whether you go to the legislative library or whether you go down to the dining room, the staff here work exceedingly hard to please members. They are the people who try to make this place function and, boy, they do a great job; they really do.

After the election of May 2 a number of constituents phoned me, as I am sure people were phoning members in other ridings. They had been watching the news and learning that a new deal was in the works, something different, something unusual. And it is unusual; it is historic.

I am no authority on parliamentary history, but to my knowledge, never in the history of Canada or, for that matter, in the history of any Commonwealth country has there been a situation in which two opposition parties, without entering into a formal coalition, have drafted an agenda upon which they both agreed, then combined to defeat the government and crossed the floor to form a new government. It has not happened before. It is unique, and because it is unique, people obviously have questions about that kind of change.

So when people phoned me to ask about— Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Warner: They are destroying the sense of decorum that should prevail in this assembly.

When people phoned me and asked the reasons for this, obviously, as other members have grasped, first of all it was the vote. There is the argument, "We did not get the majority of seats, but we got more than the other parties." The Conservatives say: "We got 52 seats. That is more than the Liberals. They have 48. So we get to govern." It is a valid argument. I do not quarrel with that.

There is another argument that says the Liberals got a higher popular vote. More votes were cast for that party than for any other. There is a third argument that says that, combined, the parties that were seen to be in opposition collectively had at least 62 per cent of the popular vote, so the government does not enjoy the confidence of the people.

I think that is a powerful argument, but it goes beyond that, because through debates in this assembly, petitions that have been presented, public opinion polls and the campaign itself, some if not all of these issues have struck a chord with the people of Ontario.

Ban extra billing by medical doctors. Introduce programs to create employment and training opportunities for young people. Proclaim the sections of the Environmental Protection Act dealing with spills. Reform Ontario's tenant protection laws to include the establishment of a rent registry. Establish a four per cent rent review guideline. Include provisions of Bill 198 as a permanent part of the Residential Tenancies Act. Extend rent review to cover post-1976 buildings. End the \$750-a-month exemption from rent review. Introduce a rent review procedure to deal with costs no longer borne by landlords. Introduce enabling legislation to permit demolition control by municipalities. Introduce legislation for equal pay for work of equal value in both the public and private sector. Include a first contract law in Ontario labour legislation.

I want to pause there. If there is one thing that triggers a response from this side to say that this government should be turfed out, it is that one. I do not know how many members of this assembly participated in the picket line at the Eaton's locations during the winter. Those men and women—mostly women—deserve nothing but the highest praise for surviving what was probably the most severe winter we have had in this city in 50 years against a giant that was determined to crush them, a giant that had all the corporate help anyone could possibly want, a giant so powerful as to control some of the media.

Why was it the Eaton's strike was not covered on CFTO-TV? Because the Eaton family controls Standard Broadcasting, which in turn controls CFTO. They said: "Do not cover it. We do not want coverage given to people who are out on strike. So what if the Eaton family cannot conduct its business properly?"

Where were the Tories through all this? Who cares about a bunch of women who are trying to protect their jobs or their families? Who cares if they vote in the store to have a union and then are denied by the process set up by the government? When it comes to talking about change, that one

by itself qualifies for the end of this Tory government.

Introduce reforms to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, including toxic substances designation and regulations to give workers the right to know about work place hazards. All the johnnies-come-lately say, "It is in the blue document." This was not new. People have been yelling and screaming about this problem for 10 years; then suddenly the government saw the light of day two weeks ago.

9:20 p.m.

Continue the prebudget freeze on the ad valorem gasoline tax. That was a gem; talk about automatic escalation. In other terms—and this is something the Speaker should be involved with personally—how it is that a government in a British parliamentary system has the right to raise taxes without coming to the Legislature?

Some members have heard my little talk on the Magna Carta, so I probably do not need to go all through it again—I say that to the member for Lanark (Mr. Wiseman)—but the fact remains that from the days of Magna Carta until now, it has been a sacred part of our parliamentary heritage that taxes are set by the parliament. This government decided it could escalate taxes automatically without coming to the parliament. I submit that is wrong and it is not constitutional. However, we are going to put an end to it.

Establish an inquiry into gas price differentials between northern and southern Ontario. Earlier, my colleague asked a question of the minister about that and the minister did not even know what he was talking about. It happens to be a fact that people in northern Ontario get ripped off on gasoline prices. This government has allowed that to continue.

Provide full coverage of medically necessary travel under the Ontario health insurance plan for residents of northern Ontario. I think one member, the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), can take credit for having pushed that one through.

Mr. Wiseman: Oh, oh.

Mr. Warner: It happens to be true.

Mr. Foulds: You mean you guys voted for it? You guys voted for it last May and your minister wouldn't even implement it.

Interjections.

Mr. Foulds: You even priced it. You priced it for your leadership campaign.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, the member for Port Arthur.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If I had four years off I would have learned something. Listen to this guy.

Mr. Warner: It is nice to have hecklers in front of me, even if they are on my side.

Affirmative action and employment equity for women, minorities, the handicapped and expansion of the role and budget of the Ontario Human Rights Commission to deal with work place and housing discrimination. If some members of the government party do not happen to believe discrimination exists in housing and jobs, they are sadly mistaken. A report by the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto indicated very clearly that job and housing discrimination exists on the basis of colour and sex. This government has pretended it does not exist. It pretends something does not exist and maybe it will go away.

Establishment of an Ontario Housing program to fund immediately 10,000 co-op and nonprofit housing units in addition to those provided for under federal funding arrangements. We have had a government here that does not believe in public housing; that has been obvious. Just ask the member for Ottawa South (Mr. Bennett), the former Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. He did not believe in it to the extent that the government stopped construction of public housing units in 1976. The government is not interested in housing. I suppose all the government members have nice homes themselves, so why worry if someone does not have a home?

New enforceable mechanisms for the control of pollution to enable Ontario to deal effectively with acid rain and to establish the principle that the polluter pays. The government has been doing the opposite: reward the polluter. The meagre fines that have been levied are nothing but a licence to pollute. So what if half the fish in Ontario glow in the dark? The government does not seem to care about it. That has been obvious.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Vince, this is your friend. This is who put you in office.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Warner: If the Minister of Education (Mr. Grossman) wishes to heckle, the least he could do is take his seat.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am trying to, but you are emptying the chamber.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Foulds: You have no respect for 700 years of parliamentary tradition. That is your problem.

Interjections.

Mr. Warner: I do not want to keep the member back from his leadership campaign.

Mr. McClellan: There is no need to move to the back benches yet, Larry.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We certainly missed you, David. We will miss you the next four years too.

Mr. McClellan: You won't be in the back row until Wednesday. You can sit in the front until Tuesday night.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Warner: Mr. Speaker, I will be very pleased to continue my remarks. Perhaps the Minister of Education can continue his discussion with his campaign manager privately.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I tell you what: I'll stop if you'll stop.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Warner: I am glad to see those folks are going out with a sense of humour anyway.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I know there are a lot of interjections, including some from members who are out of their seats. I will ask the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere to continue and, I hope, to disregard the interjections.

Mr. Warner: Some of these members have no sense of propriety whatsoever.

What is interesting about the acid rain problem is that throughout the election what I heard coming from the Tory camp was, "The major source of the problem is south of the border." To a certain extent, that is true. Then one asked, "What about the part that is home-grown?" When we look at the home-grown problem, we see it is really from two major sources, Inco and Ontario Hydro.

Inco has always been able to do as it pleased and so it continues. When the minister stands up and announces there will be control orders, they have been written by Inco. It is nothing new and it is nowhere near the control that needs to be placed on Inco.

As for Ontario Hydro, I guess we all hope it will become a crown corporation some day and then perhaps the people will have some measure of control over it. I look forward to the select committee being re-established so we can have a look at the books, so we can bring Ontario Hydro under control and so we can handle, among other things, the acid rain being created by Ontario Hydro.

Reform of services for the elderly to provide alternatives to institutional care and reform the present nursing home licensing and inspection system. That is a gem. If one wants to know where the Tories are at in understanding the province, all one has to do is take a look at care of the elderly. Nowhere is there a better example of lack of information and lack of understanding.

The answer to our nursing homes and homes for the aged being overcrowded, according to the Tories, is to throw some money at them and issue some more licences. I think it was 2,400 more beds. That is not the answer to the problem. If the Tories had any sense, they would look at it and realize that at one end of the scale there are elderly people in nursing homes who require chronic care; they should be in the chronic care wing of a hospital. A nursing home is not equipped to handle that kind of difficulty, but we do not have the chronic care beds.

At the other end of the scale we have seniors who could survive on their own in their own homes if they had some home care programs available, if they had some home care service, if they had someone to come in and do a few repairs from time to time, to prepare a meal or just to visit. Those folks could stay in their homes, but those programs are not universally available throughout Ontario.

At both ends of the scale we have people in nursing homes who should not be there. The answer is not to add more nursing home beds. That is silly. The answer is to look at home care programs in the community and at chronic care wings in hospitals. The Tories are not prepared to do either of those things.

9:30 p.m.

Reform of job security legislation, including notice and justification of layoffs and plant shutdowns, and improve severance legislation. What a legacy of failure that one is. Those folks were here at the time SKF Canada Ltd. decided it was going to close up shop and move along. It is a little painful. Earlier, one member talked about painful news the other side did not want to hear. I have some painful news for the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies). When SKF closed its doors, someone said to the company: "You have plants in other jurisdictions around the world. Why are you closing your plant in Scarborough?" Do the members remember what the answer was? "Because it is only here that we can do this and get away with it. We cannot get away with it in any other jurisdiction."

The painful truth is that there are no rules about plant shutdowns and closures. Multinational

companies can close their doors whenever they feel like it; they can move away for whatever flimsy reason, and nothing is done.

In my riding is an outfit called Dominion Cutout Ltd. It has been in business for 55 years, 30 of those years in Scarborough. It is a multinational company based in France and is in seven jurisdictions. It decided, for reasons other than financial, to close the Scarborough operation and move to Montreal. It has moved, just like that, and nothing is done. The employees who are left there do not even get a penny of severance pay. Why?

Mr. Pierce: What was their union?

Mr. Warner: I am glad the honourable member brought that up. They happened to have the benefit of a collective agreement, and the union said: "We are frustrated. We cannot do anything because the law of Ontario says there have to be at least 50 employees." At Dominion Cutout there are 43 employees.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Who else has a better law? Name one place.

Mr. Warner: If the member for Sarnia has an hour and a half, I will give him a list. Let us start with Sweden, West Germany and France; there are three jurisdictions. Britain and Ireland are two more. I would not hesitate to say the Falkland Islands probably has a better law.

These guys fold their tents and steal off in the night and the workers are left high and dry. The member should go and tell a 55-year-old man who has spent 30 years of his life working for this company where he is supposed to get a job now. No retraining responsibility is applied to these companies; there is no severance responsibility and there are no pensions. Where does a worker of that age go? It is a legacy of failure.

Regarding workers' compensation, we will attempt to reform the Workers' Compensation Board, I gather in close harmony with the Liberal Party; but I want to go on record as saying the only meaningful reform for that board is to abolish it and bring in a universal insurance scheme. Ultimately, that is the only answer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Is the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) in favour of it?

Mr. Warner: The member for Niagara Falls has been introduced to progressive ideas. The world is turning as it should.

Interjections.

Mr. Breaugh: There is criticism coming even from the government back benches tonight.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere has the floor.

Mr. Warner: Perhaps the Minister of Education can get back to his speechwriting.

If any reasonable individual were to examine the Agenda for Reform Proposals for Minority Parliament, May 1985, read it carefully and think back over the past 40 years, and more particularly the past 10 years, one would come to the conclusion that what is about to happen on Tuesday does not have that much to do with the 62 per cent of the people who voted against the Tories or with the highest number of votes of any party having been gained by the Liberals. It has more to do with an agenda for reform, which is absolutely essential for the people of Ontario; reform that is needed, reform that flies in the face of the Tory do-nothing attitude.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Warner: Is there an on-off switch for that guy?

Mr. McClellan: Yes; on Tuesday it gets turned off.

Mr. Warner: I have been given the privilege of being my party's critic for skills development and youth, and I look forward to the challenge of that portfolio. I read with interest the statement made on June 11 by the member for Brantford on the establishment of the Ministry of Skills Development.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: An excellent speech.

Mr. Warner: Actually, it was a very good speech. I know it was a good speech because I heard this speech 10 years ago and I thought it was a nice speech then. It does not come to grips with the real problems, but it is still a kind of interesting speech.

It really is an end run around the apprenticeship training program, because the Tories have failed to provide a meaningful apprenticeship program in Ontario. Once again, industry has no obligation either to participate in the program or to participate financially. I read it carefully: "It is time now for companies and unions to become active partners in providing funds, expertise, facilities and work experience to improve the training process dramatically." It does not say, "Thou shalt."

Until we get the three partners of government, labour and business all contributing to a fund for apprenticeship, we are not going to have an apprenticeship program that works.

It is the same tired old stuff; it is just another nail in the coffin. This speech is just as I said. I was out of this place for four years; I came back and found that nothing has changed.

[Applause]

Mr. Warner: I thank the members opposite for welcoming me back. I always appreciate their support.

Some comments were made that because of this historic arrangement that is about to unfold, our party or the Liberal Party might lose its political identity through this process.

When I look back over the history of this party and its several forerunners—the history of the party goes back approximately 100 years—and when I look at what this party has achieved in terms of establishing medicare, old age pensions and unemployment insurance, I am very proud of this party's accomplishments. I know this party has become part of the political fabric of this province. We are not going to wither up and die. We are not going to roll over and play dead. This party has a heritage of which it can be most proud.

9:40 p.m.

We have an agenda for reform. A portion of it has been seen. We have many more issues which we will fight hard for on behalf of the people who support us and on behalf of the hundreds of thousands more to whom we wish to appeal. This party will move forward. On Tuesday next, some dark days are about to disappear, a new dawn is about to occur, but Ontario's day in the sun will be when there is a New Democratic Party government in the province.

Mr. Guindon: It is with a sense of optimism that I rise to speak today about the plans this government has so thoughtfully presented for consideration by the Legislature. At the same time, I am indeed honoured to participate in this debate in my capacity as a new member from the dynamic and distinguished riding of Cornwall.

Before I begin my comments on the initiatives presented to this assembly by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, I would like to take a few moments to acknowledge the well-deserved success of my predecessor, a man whose political vision appears to be on the brink of being realized.

For more than 11 years, George Samis capably and conscientiously served the constituents of the riding of Cornwall. On a wider basis, it is largely because of Mr. Samis's support that we are able today to enjoy beer in some of our larger stadiums. On behalf of not only the hundreds of thousands of fans who enjoy beer at the ball park but also of my colleague the Treasurer (Miss Stephenson), I would like to recognize and applaud the contributions of the former member in this regard.

I have referred to the political vision of my predecessor. Some might regard him as the founding father of the alliance, soon to be quickly forgotten, between the second and third parties.

Allow me to explain. After the electoral success of this government in 1981, George Samis proposed the idea of a coalition between the two parties that have occupied the west side of this assembly for quite some time. I understand that Mr. Samis's suggestion at that time was quickly attacked by members of his own caucus, and I dare say the memory remains relatively fresh in the minds of many members of the third party in the House this evening.

I also understand that the attack on the proposed alliance was spearheaded by the member for York South (Mr. Rae), who, in response to a suggested alliance, was quoted as saying a mere 60 days ago: "Absolutely not. On so many issues, the Liberals are well to the right of the Conservatives." I can only infer that for the time being, any ideology the third party may have espoused has taken a back seat to the ill-conceived goal of temporarily unseating this government.

I firmly believe the third party is about to demonstrate to this House, and indeed to the entire province, a textbook illustration of the concept of short-term gain for long-term pain.

Excuse me for digressing. My intent is to remind this assembly of the dedication and insight of my predecessor from the riding of Cornwall. In so doing, however, I could not avoid pointing out the nature of the change that the former member's party has undergone in two short months.

I now turn my attention to the matter that has been the subject of debate for the last few days. In particular, I would like to address certain initiatives announced in the throne speech related to various areas of interest to my constituents, and consequently to me.

J'estime que le plan présenté mardi dernier à cette Assemblée en vue d'élargir les services en français atteste clairement du degré d'engagement du présent gouvernement à l'égard des quelque 500,000 Ontariens dont la langue maternelle est le français.

Je représente au sein de cette Assemblée une circonscription où le tiers de la population affirme que sa langue maternelle est le français. Et c'est sans aucune hésitation que j'appuie les efforts que fait le gouvernement progressiste-conservateur pour répondre aux besoins des francophones de l'Ontario. C'est tout simple-

ment que les initiatives mises de l'avant dans le discours du trône poursuivent avec bonheur la politique menée par le premier ministre John Robarts, une politique qui a été fermement suivie par les deux gouvernements progressistes-conservateurs qui lui ont succédé.

Je me suis toujours prononcé en faveur d'une approche sensible aux services en français, c'està-dire une approche qui vise à fournir des services concrets en réponse à des besoins réels et observés, et j'entends maintenir cette position. J'affirme devant cette Assemblée que le présent gouvernement continuera à répondre aux besoins de la population francophone de l'Ontario.

Pour comprendre pleinement le sens des mesures que Son Honneur le lieutenant-gouverneur annonçait mardi dernier, il a lieu de les considérer dans le contexte des réalisations antérieures en ce qui a trait à la prestation de services en français. Le gouvernement progressiste-conservateur de l'Ontario a été l'un des premiers gouvernements provinciaux à revendiquer que le droit à l'éducation en langue minoritaire dans tout le Canada soit garanti par la Constitution.

En décembre dernier, le gouvernement a illustré une fois de plus son engagement en amendant la Loi sur l'éducation de façon que tout enfant francophone en Ontario ait droit désormais à une éducation en français. En vertu de cet amendement, les écoles publiques sont tenues de fournir, sur demande, un enseignement en français à tous les élèves admissibles, ou encore, de prendre les dispositions nécessaires à cette fin avec d'autres conseils scolaires.

D'autres mesures législatives, également proposées en décembre dernier, stipulaient que la question des classes et écoles de langue française soit confiée à des conseillers francophones élus. En vertu de ces mesures, les conseils scolaires qui comptent au moins 500 élèves francophones, ou ceux dont 10 pour cent de l'effectif est constitué de francophones, pourrait compter d'office au moins quatre conseillers scolaires francophones.

Tel qu'indiqué dans le discours du trône, le présent gouvernement déposera de nouveau ces amendements clés à la Loi sur l'éducation et déploiera les efforts pour que ces derniers soient adoptés avec diligence.

Le gouvernement progressiste-conservateur s'engage également élargir les programmes en français dans le domaine des services de santé. Le coordonnateur des services en matière du ministère de la Santé a travaillé activement à la détermination des besoins des francophones

en Ontario, et en réponse aux recommendations présentées par son bureau, les services de santé

en français seront élargis.

Depuis plus de 11 ans maintenant, le Conseil des affaires franco-ontariennes poursuit sa tâche, maintenant des liens étroits avec les franco-phones de l'Ontario et se tenant au courant de leurs besoins et de leurs attentes en ce qui a trait aux services dispensés en français par le gouvernement. Afin d'être à même de tirer pleinement parti des propositions émanant des 15 membres du Conseil, le gouvernement a également promis dans le discours du trône de prendre des mesures pour que le Conseil soit intégré davantage au bureau du Conseil des ministres.

Je me réjouis de ce pas très important dans la centralisation de l'élaboration des politiques qui touchent la prestation des services en français. Je suis parfaitement conscient de l'approche plus radicale, et moins précise, que proposent les deuxième et troisième partis pour répondre aux besoins des francophones de la province. Cependant, étant moi-même francophone et connaissant bien la population francophone de l'Ontario, j'en suis venu à la conclusion que l'approche actuelle fonctionne bien. Tant que des mécanismes fiables seront en place pour suivre l'évolution des besoins des francophones de notre province, tant que ces mécanismes joueront un rôle primordial dans la prise de décisions et tant que la prestation des services en français nécessaires demeurera un trait gouvernement progressiste-conservateur, les mesures préconisées par les deuxième et troisième partis continueront d'être redondantes.

Le présent discours du trône garantit dans une large mesure que la position superflue des partis d'opposition sur la question des droits des francophones survivra fort longtemps à l'alliance qui est projetée.

9:50 p.m. Mr. Grindon (Cornwell PC)

I would now like to turn to a topic that touches all of us in countless ways. The fate of this province is inextricably linked to its economic performance. Recently we have been observing signs of the results of sound economic management. I believe the orientation of this throne speech will ensure an even longer period of prosperity and growth. I also believe the economic policies outlined last Tuesday will provide significant benefits to my constituency.

A dominant theme of the approach this government has adopted involves building from within. Instead of direct intervention, the Progressive Conservative Party continues to facili-

tate growth from within the various sectors, and in particular the small business sector. Cornwall, I believe, typifies a community that must decrease reliance on outside investors and look for innovative solutions within.

Cognizant of the impact of a healthy small business sector on job creation, I wholly support the reduced tax burden on growing small enterprises. Clearly, however, we must encourage industry to complement the job-creating function of small businesses by protecting our industrial work force. The enterprise technology fund represents an innovative and I believe realistic approach to employment development in the industrial sphere.

The history of this province is replete with countless examples of industries and corporations that failed to consider the impact of improved technology on manpower levels until after the decision to modernize had been made. It is time to make training and retraining plans an integral component of the business plan rather than an afterthought.

The enterprise technology fund will also provide government with an opportunity to better understand the relationship between technology and employment. It is the clear aim of this government to return to a position where human needs are better balanced with technological efficiency.

Understanding and facilitating the everchanging demands that are placed on young people entering the job market, as well as those whose employment situations have changed, is a mandate of the recently created Ministry of Skills Development. The increasingly successful Ontario skills fund and Ontario Youth Opportunities have now been consolidated in the new ministry. I am confident the positive effects of this ministry on employment prospects for young people in particular will be observed shortly.

The throne speech also provided for an additional \$100-million employment and training supplement that will serve to increase the impact of the Ministry of Skills Development. One initiative in this regard that I am particularly interested in involves stronger links between the private sector and our secondary schools. A more complete mutual understanding of the functions and requirements of our economic and educational institutions is, I believe, a prerequisite to a more advantageous fit between the supply of young qualified employees and the specific demands of the potential employer.

Of particular interest to my riding, and I am sure to others as well, were the extensive

initiatives contained in the throne speech that related to the province's tourism industry. Tourism represents a potentially unlimited resource in this province and there is every reason to believe we are just beginning to reap the benefits it brings.

The creation of the tourism development board signifies this government's commitment to begin a more aggressive and widespread tourism campaign. In particular, Quebec and the United States have been identified as targets. This is good news indeed for tourist operators in the riding of Cornwall and in eastern Ontario in general. I have often regarded tourism as an industry where the long-term benefits accrued can, under the right conditions, significantly outweigh any short-term costs involved. The emphasis on tourism that is evident in the throne speech indicates the diverse yet comprehensive approach this government has taken in the economic sphere.

On a regional basis, we in eastern Ontario can also look forward to increased economic development resulting from a new \$40-million program that begins in September 1985 and supersedes the very successful eastern Ontario subsidiary agreement. The five-year program in the speech from the throne will be entered into on a cost-shared basis with the federal government and will provide assistance for agricultural development, small business, tourism and forestry.

The Progressive Conservative government has also given its assurance that the very successful community economic transformation agreement program will be carried forward in the forthcoming budget. This program has been judiciously applied to communities with the most severe and persistent economic problems. The need for a flexible and adaptable program that assists community development has been clearly demonstrated in a relatively short period of time, particularly in the northern and eastern regions of this province.

I join the debate this evening in my role as provincial member of parliament for the riding of Cornwall. The responsibilities of that role include an examination of the throne speech from the perspective of the vast array of constituents I represent. I am confident the throne speech presented to this assembly is a thoughtful and progressive document from many points of view.

From the Franco-Ontarian's point of view, I see an advancement in the Progressive Conservative policy that involves more extensive services to the community in the areas of education,

health and general government administration. From the small businessman's perspective, I see the prospect of more available earnings that he can put to work for the company. For those out of work, I see serious initiatives that focus on training and retraining both in industry and in the schools.

For those concerned about the managementlabour relationship, I see several initiatives that will increase the protection and rights afforded to employees. For those with environmental interests, we have heard of a number of very extensive, yet targeted plans that signify the importance this government places on our most precious of natural resources.

For those with general concerns related to the economic future of their community and province, there are numerous measures that will serve to reinforce the mood of confidence we are currently experiencing. For the elderly or the disabled, there are initiatives that will serve to improve the conditions in which they live.

I firmly believe the document before this House represents a determined and successful attempt to lead this province through a very demanding period. The framework combines social, economic and cultural programs that demonstrate the desire to progress to more secure and equitable positions for all Ontarians.

10 p.m.

Ms. E. J. Smith: It is an honour to come to this esteemed House as the representative of the riding of London South. London, lying in the heart of southwestern Ontario, is blessed both by nature and history. Although intended by Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe to be the capital of this province, it did lose out in that area, as the members may have noticed.

It remains, however, a centre of industries such as Labatt Brewing Co. Ltd., General Motors' diesel division and Northern Telecom, and of insurance companies such as London Life, as well as being the centre of commerce for the surrounding area. It is especially a centre of education and health. We house, among other things, the facilities of Fanshawe College and the University of Western Ontario. As well, our leadership in medical research and practice is recognized by the fact that we were chosen to have the most recent major research facility in the province, the John P. Robarts Memorial Research Institute.

My riding is made up of old residential areas and new thriving suburbia, interspiced with small and large businesses and factories. As such it is typical of many such ridings in Ontario. In speaking for these people, therefore, I think I speak for many other such communities as well.

When I declared my candidacy, I made it clear to the electorate that I represented a major difference in philosophy from my opponent, just as I believe our Liberal leader represents a major philosophical difference from the present Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) and the party he heads.

What is this difference and how does it translate into government? Liberals have always supported the right of each person to develop his potential talents and skills to the fullest. Democracy demands this. Liberals see this as a right and not as a gift to be meted out here and there as a few members of society see fit.

How does this translate then into government social programs? It means, for example, that prostheses and wheelchairs should be available to everyone who needs them. It means a woman who is abused can take her children and leave her abusing husband with support assured from society, and when she does so, she will have the opportunity to provide for them in a setting that engenders pride and growth in those children. This in turn means job training, decent housing, day care and, yes, even equitable rates of pay.

How does this Liberal philosophy translate into business and job creation? The Conservatives, especially federally but also provincially, base their thinking and spending on the premise that government should start to put more money into the hands of the wealthy and then these few will act wisely in a way that will benefit the majority of citizens. Hence Prime Minister Mulroney can comment that the problem in Canada is there are not enough rich people and present to his nation a budget that creates more rich people and impoverishes more seniors.

During the election the provincial Conservatives demonstrated similar naivety in their proposal to create more jobs by giving tax rebates to those who are already doing well. Unlike the Liberals, who propose to assist all small businesses directly as they create jobs, the Conservatives propose giving away our money with no strings attached. That tax relief money could be invested in the United States or used for a holiday or for anything the businessman wished. One thing is certain, it would not likely be spent for the day-to-day necessities of life; so this businessman would not be troubled excessively by new and various sales taxes.

The Conservatives presented this plan, knowing full well its almost identical twin, the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development pro-

gram of 1981, had been proclaimed a failure by all.

The present education system also represents a celebration of the past rather than an entrance into the future. How does the Liberal philosophy translate into better education? Liberals believe we must provide every citizen with the tools to fend for himself in the job market and to keep learning and adjusting always.

I remember the excitement and challenge of Expo '67, with its vision of machines replacing men and all of us living and benefiting by the advantages of health and technology. What have the Conservatives done in our education system in the last 18 years to actualize this dream? They have cut back their share of money flowing into boards of education budgets from 61 per cent to around 48 per cent. They have utterly failed to provide apprenticeship programs, so that in a province of high unemployment there is a shortage of skilled craftsmen.

They have cut back on budgets in community colleges, so that the machinery being used is too old to train students for the jobs they are expected to fill and the teachers are left with no time to keep their own skills in tune with the changing marketplace.

The universities, choking from financial neglect, are required to spend their time addressing another commission, the Bovey Commission. The terms of reference require that all recommendations must be within the present budget structure. This is so, despite the fact that Ontario spends less per student than any other province. The Liberals would put education as a top priority again, even as John Robarts did many years ago.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: He was not a Liberal.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I believe in what he did. Unfortunately, his footsteps are not being followed.

How does the Liberal philosophy translate into changes in the health system? It is in this field that the difference becomes even more evident. In sickness it translates into access to all levels of medical service regardless of ability to pay. That means no extra billing. It also means society would assist each person to maintain as much independence as possible at every stage of his life.

The people in my riding displayed a special interest in this area. They are aware that our present health system is a series of tacked-on programs evolved and stuck together with no real long-term planning. There is no recognition of

the problems of the future that are already so close at hand.

By the turn of this century this province will have 1.4 million senior citizens. At present there are 900,000. They will increase in number as the population bulge moves through, but also because new techniques and drugs save and prolong life. We cannot fulfil our obligation to our seniors and still face the bills attached to this prolonged old age unless we make a meaningful effort now to keep people at home, independent and in good health, for as long as possible.

There is a progression, a pyramid. At the bottom are those needing support to stay at home, alone or with their family. This often requires some degree of support, day care, holiday care and most especially home care, including house-keeping assistance for those living alone. If an elderly citizen falls from a ladder and breaks her hip in an effort to change a light bulb or has a stroke doing heavy labour and therein remains permanently in care, is this good economic sense? We must move to greatly broaden support programs aimed at maintaining independence.

In the health care pyramid it is too easy to turn the care package upside down. An active hospital bed is occupied by someone who needs chronic care while a desperately ill patient lies in the hallway. A person goes to a rest home or a nursing home for lack of adequate outreach services at home.

Ontario has an 8.9 per cent hospitalizing rate for its seniors, higher than almost any other province. I do not believe this is because family or neighbours are less willing to help. It reflects a political history of insufficient determination to maintain pride and independence. It costs us financially and it costs the seniors emotionally. 10:10 p.m.

In the area of the mentally ill, the Conservative government has benefited from the use of new drugs and has been able to return thousands of people back to the community. Yet little has been done to prepare the community or provide the needed backup programs. What programs do exist are often forced on the purse of the municipality or the local United Way. Since these services are often so inadequate, we see the scandal of steady readmission, the swinging door syndrome of our mental hospitals.

The province was more than willing to save money on those closed beds. Would that it had learned at the same time how to help these people back into real independence. Would that it had learned already, while we have fewer than a million seniors, how to build a network of

supports to keep them at home. Would that we had already developed our health and social work services and personnel, such as public health nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, homemakers and assistants, to support health directly rather than waiting to deal primarily with doctors and treat illness.

Forty-plus years of Tory rule, of Tory time to act, have left us with a scattering of pilot projects that demonstrated how much can and must be done, but these same Tories were too tired to learn even from their own good examples. They prefer to hire consultants endlessly to present reports instead of learning from their own good experiences and really doing something worth while on a big scale. They advertise well-researched ideas, but they will not put up the money to keep programs running. So some abused women get help, some students get jobs, but lots of advertisers and consultants get fat.

For 20 years we have been aware that our world was changing. We speak complacently of living through a second industrial revolution as if these words might make it all right that there is an unemployment rate hovering around 10 per cent. We have accepted the fact that the highest rate of unemployment is among our youth, failing to address the fact that their thwarted aspirations and energy can only turn outwardly to crime or violence or inwardly to drugs, suicide or mental illness. The statistics bear this out.

We have seemed content to drift and expect them to accept that since they were born during this new industrial revolution, they will have to wait to find fulfilment, to marry, to afford homes and children. We do not ask whether this new world we saw at Expo '67 was not intended to bring its blessings evenly to all rather than create a province where more and more of the wealth is controlled by fewer and fewer of the people and where new capital is often used simply to gobble up existing companies, to deplete them and close them rather than bring a shared wealth to all.

Yet in the recent election we saw no new proposals or freshideas. We were faced with four more years of drift. The people voted against this. They voted for change. A belated throne speech from the Premier that steals all its thinking from Liberal election platforms is flattering indeed and we thank him for this. Yet why would we choose to appoint a Conservative government to engineer these changes when it has proved itself incapable of proposing or applying them over these many years?

Hon. Mr. Gillies: Since we had the most seats maybe.

Ms. E. J. Smith: The government had so many seats it did not need to bother. That is exactly the point.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: We still have the most after the election.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I have confidence that those who presented new ideas during the election now have the right and the opportunity to enact those changes. I have no confidence that a government which could not even visualize such changes would have the vigour or imagination to enact them. In a word, I have no confidence in the present government's ability to act on its borrowed or stolen throne speech and, therefore, I support the motion of no confidence in this government.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Hamilton West.

[Applause]

Mr. Allen: I am very pleased to see the members welcoming me as though I were a new member. Indeed, I must say, as I have listened to their speeches, the quality has impressed me greatly and I am happy to be counted as one of them.

I came into this Legislature, as members know, as a solitary new member three years ago and I did not have the advantage of all those orientation sessions. I stumbled my way through this and that. When I came to my first question period and somebody said, "Yes, you are the third on the question list," I counted three people asking questions and stood up. Then I stood up again. Then I stood up several more times and quickly lost count as to where I was.

None of the new members will have to engage in those trial and error exercises, being well tutored. It is obvious their speeches are well prepared.

I offer my compliments to our new Speaker. I trust his reign in this House will be a distinguished one. I am sure he will enjoy our banter and our repartee, but I hope he will also keep us under a measure of control so our debates will be a little dignified and we will make some progress in this House in the years ahead.

I say "years ahead" because I think this is a parliament that can last. I think it is a parliament that can last because, as I noted at the end of the campaign, there was a grudging recognition on the part of the government that there was a new consensus in Ontario.

The new consensus obviously was not the consensus the leader of that party identified a few months before when he was running his cam-

paign and when his convention chose him as the leader of that party. Obviously at that time he believed the centre of politics in Ontario had moved right, and he decided he was now at the centre because the centre had moved right and he was in the right place at the right time.

How time passes and how the judgement of a few months makes its impact. The impact was that as one went through that election and one saw what the electors were responding to, it was not the centre that had moved right; it was the centre that had moved left. The centre that had moved left was now identified by a certain program of items towards which he began to move grudgingly at the end of that campaign and which we have seen come in full flower in this speech from the throne.

I am sorry the member for Armourdale (Mr. McCaffrey) is not with us at the moment, because I thought his speech, at least in the latter remarks I heard, were both interesting and thoughtful and ones that bear some reflection upon. When he observes the problem that this province now faces with three parties all having the same agenda, I must say there is a certain flattery in what has happened on that side as far as we are concerned on this side and in particular in this party.

What he identifies is a very serious problem. It is not a problem, I must say, that any of us on this side has created; it is the problem of the growing vacuum of politics on the right which that party has represented.

It is a strange phenomenon that a throne speech which is so full of so many worthwhile proposals is, at its very core, a very empty and hollow document. I say it is a hollow and empty document because it is born of a maximum of flexibility and expediency and a minimum of conviction.

The program that has been put before us is not something that came out of long, thought-out Tory conventions during which resolutions were debated over periods of time, wrestled with in constituency associations, brought back and refined, and adopted as a considered policy by the great Tory party of Ontario.

One may ask, where did it come from? It appeared to come out of the air in the last days of an election campaign and then it got solidified in the few weeks of the latter part of May when it appeared the Conservative Party was not going to be able to win the contest that was taking place in the negotiations between the parties for a new posture and perhaps a new government.

Mr. Shymko: We learned our lessons; that is all it is.

10:20 p.m.

Mr. Allen: The fact of the matter is that we learned our lesson before the Tories learned theirs. We realized that, in the words of the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Brandt), there is in the course of politics a time of growing realism. When he speaks from the seat of a ministry, I know it is true that he undoubtedly has become more realistic in his politics. I am sure that on this side, as the members of the Liberal Party move over there, a certain refinement will come with the growing realism of having to grapple with power. In the new experience and relationships we will have in this new parliament, we all will find it a growing experience in political realism. I hope we all will learn from it.

Let us be quite clear that the realism we as a New Democratic Party learned in the experience of minority government, both in Ottawa and at Queen's Park, was one that convinced us it could not be done in the same old way and yield the maximum benefit possible for the people of Ontario. We had to try a new thing. Try it we did and it was unorthodox. There were people who criticized it. There were people on the other side—the leader of that party—who got up with great unction and fanfare. The Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) talked about 700 years of parliamentary government being traduced, displayed and despoiled about us.

What a magnificent observation it was but, like the throne speech itself, how hollow it proved to be in the core as the constitutional experts looked at it and tossed it to one side as a serious observation about parliamentary process.

One would have hoped that 42 years of leading the parliament of Ontario would have schooled them somewhat in parliamentary tradition and enabled them to have found something a little more substantial with which to attack the compact that has come to exist between these two parties as a working arrangement for the government of Ontario.

I think the observations from the other side about the problem of our political traditions and what happens when three parties agree really give us a lesson of where we are at. The lesson is that party has to go into the wilderness and find itself again. It may at some point find a new posture, a new form of conservatism that fits Ontario, but for the moment the electorate of this province is looking in another direction, has found other foundations and is looking for a new day of political change in Ontario.

Mr. Charlton: How does Baffin Island sound?

Mr. Allen: Baffin Island? That is one wilderness. Obviously, "the retreat to the wilderness" is an old figure of speech. It means many things and it can mean many different kinds of geographies. Yes, there are many places in Canada where they could go to hold their long conferences and think their way through to new political solutions.

Mr. Kerrio: Deerhurst.

for them.

Mr. Foulds: Minaki Lodge is the wilderness. Mr. Allen: Minaki Lodge is perhaps too good

I want to spend a few moments remarking on three or four paragraphs in the throne speech that address themselves to the issues of education that are swirling around us. I note three major points that are made. The first is that separate school funding will be implemented as planned in September, that there will be as full hearings as we can possibly have and that we will look forward to all of that progressing as planned.

Second, there is an observation about the need to improve the posture of this government—whatever government succeds, but that government opposite is the one promising it—with respect to the public education system of this province and adequate funding.

Third, a point with respect to quality education in the universities and the need for \$100 million to top up university expenditures.

The first point on the extension of separate school funding and the issue we confront-warm and controversial as it is-is that much of the controversy that is happening right now, especially as it emanates from the education profession, is not one that essentially is grounded in the old argument about Catholic education in Ontario. The reason there is so much heat and feeling in the public school teaching community, elementary, secondary and even at the university level and among the trustees and those whose children are going to the public school system, is that for years now, for more than a decade, this province has slipped away from its commitment to provide adequately for the educational needs of the young people of this province.

One does not have to go far in looking at funding statistics across this country to see how far the government has fallen short of its commitments. If we look at every single panel of education, whether it be the elementary and secondary, the post-secondary or the vocational and occupational area, or whether we take all those statistics together in a total package, we

discover that from 1970-71 to 1980-81, the last year for which total national comprehensive comparative statistics have been put together, there has been a constant decline in the proportion of the gross provincial product of this province committed to education.

We find that over that decade it dropped in real terms, as a percentage of the provincial product of this province, by 25 per cent, and that for every year from 1970-71 to 1980-81 the Ontario figures lie below the national average expenditure in terms of the proportion of the provincial product expended on education for all the other provinces of Canada.

That is true regardless of what sector or what panel in the education system we look at. If we tally it up by 1984-85 in terms of the provincial shortfall, we discover that in the elementary and secondary panel \$423 less is spent on Ontario school children than the average of the other provinces, and that at the post-secondary level the shortfall per student is \$1,257.

If we take the total amount per year in terms of the shortfall, we discover that in Ontario we spend \$761 million less on the young people of this province than we would if we were spending the national average of the other provinces. That is for the elementary and secondary panel. If we look at the university panel, we discover that the expenditure shortfall is \$264 million a year.

Nobody in his right mind would embark on a program to recoup all that in the course of one year's leap forward. The losses have been too great and the shortfall and the cutbacks have been too immense for us to make them up in a quick year or two. Obviously, it is going to be a long-term process to get this province back to where it should be.

I recite all that simply to make the point that those who are responsible for education in the public school system in this province, as distinct from the separate public system that is part of the larger structure of public education, are distressed and they are projecting the distress they feel on the expenditure of effort and money on the separate public system.

While that is shortsighted, I think we all have to recognize where the root of so much anger lies.

It does not lie just in the shortfall in money. For example, it lies in the fact that in the 1960s when the Hall-Dennis reforms were being implemented there was no debate on that question in this Legislature. When the turnaround of the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions reforms of a year ago were implemented, there was no debate in this Legislature on that major shift of educational philosophy and direction.

All of that is a reflection of what happened last June when the then Premier stood up and announced, out of the blue-it took his own Ministry of Education and his Minister of Education by surprise—that separate school funding would be extended. Once more, those responsible for education in this province realized they were being put through a kind of arbitrary process of announcement that did not grow out of a process of realistic and extensive consultation, as it should have.

That is what has caused an immense amount of dismay. That is what has led to the projection of all that anger and dismay with respect to the extension and completion of the Catholic system.

One could go through a lot of documentation to add a whole lot of other incidents that had to do with colleges and teachers or testing mechanisms, for example, or with the fact that librarians in the school system realized that Ontario spends less than any other province on school books for children in the system, half the amount of the next largest expenditure upward.

There is item after item where the frustration and inadequacy that have confronted that community of education is being poured out before us today in the response to the funding proposal for separate schools.

The Deputy Speaker: I would draw the member's attention to the clock.

Mr. Allen: I recognize the clock, I recognize you and I recognize our tiredness, my own included, at the end of a long day.

On motion by Mr. Allen, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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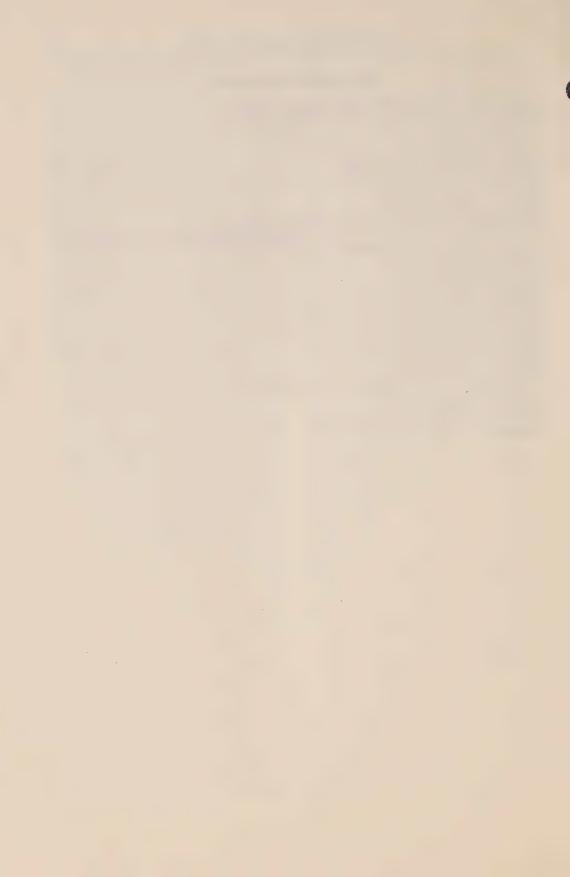
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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 33rd Parliament

Friday, June 14, 1985

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, June 14, 1985

The House met at 10 a.m. Prayers.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: I ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing a group of most distinguished guests in the west gallery. Our visitors are heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Canada, representing 30 countries, many of whom are on their first official visit to Ontario. Please join me in welcoming the heads of missions and their spouses.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I rise in my place in my capacity as Provincial Secretary for Resources Development to announce that the Lieutenant Governor in Council has approved the Niagara Escarpment plan, together with 26 modifications which were deemed to be desirable.

The Niagara Escarpment plan, which will be lodged with municipalities and land registry offices within the planning area, is the result of a 12-year planning effort by the Niagara Escarpment Commission in conjunction with the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development.

The chairman of the commission, Mr. Ivor McMullin, commission members and their senior staff are present in the visitors' gallery and in your gallery, Mr. Speaker, and I would certainly be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to recognize, on behalf of the Speaker and all members of this House, their efforts in planning for the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

The Niagara Escarpment plan, released in July 1984, was considered to be "a commitment renewed" by the Ontario government. The Niagara Escarpment plan and modifications that I release today represent "a commitment assured."

The Niagara Escarpment plan addresses comprehensively the issues that were raised in more than 350 written submissions to cabinet and contains policies that, when implemented, will

benefit the people of Ontario for generations to come. By opting for conservation, we have kept our natural heritage options open indefinitely.

Addressing each of the written submissions equitably was an ongoing project extending over a nine-month period from September 14, 1984. The results have been well worth the effort.

Copies of the Niagara Escarpment plan modifications will be available for sale to the public from the Ontario government bookstore and the three commission offices in Grimsby, Georgetown and Clarksburg. In addition, the Lieutenant Governor in Council has requested the production of a consolidated version of the Niagara Escarpment plan to be completed during the summer months.

In the next few moments, as a courtesy to those who have followed the escarpment story faithfully, I wish to convey the direction these modifications took. A little later in the statement I wish to highlight a few site-specific areas in and around the escarpment, namely, Fonthill in Niagara, Speyside in Halton, Regan-Graham in Peel and the Beaver Valley in Grey county.

In addition, I will highlight the recommended program for land acquisition and stewardship of escarpment heritage properties, a system of escarpment parks which will include newly designated provincial parks, and an implementation program for the development permit system that will give local municipalities an important role in escarpment preservation and mineral resource policies.

In regard to the mineral aggregate policy, special policies are included in the plan for aggregate extraction on the escarpment. While having due regard for the provincial policies relating to land use, municipal official plans must not be in conflict with the Niagara Escarpment plan.

Wayside permits will not be issued for provincial road construction projects in the escarpment natural and protection area designations.

All references to high-potential mineral aggregate resources, mapping and textual, have been removed from the plan.

New licensed pits and quarries producing more than 20,000 tonnes per annum will be

permitted only in areas designated "escarpment rural" and only following an amendment to the plan.

Aggregate for municipal road construction may be obtained only from sites previously disturbed by extractive operations in the escarpment protection area.

On the question of land acquisition and stewardship, a Niagara Escarpment fund will be established by the Ontario Heritage Foundation to enable donations to be received for the acquisition of escarpment lands. The government's commitment to this fund will be \$2.5 million a year for 10 years. To underline that commitment, it will be my pleasure later to transfer to the chairman of the Niagara Escarpment committee, Mr. Bayley, and to the vice-chairman, Mr. McMullin, a cheque in the amount of \$1 million.

In addition, three members of the Niagara Escarpment Commission have been appointed to serve on that special committee of the Ontario Heritage Foundation. They are Ivor McMullin, to whom I have just referred, Leo Bruzzese and Robert McNairn.

To turn to escarpment parks, a Niagara Escarpment parks system encompassing 92,000 acres or 230,000 hectares has been created, consisting of 105 parks including 11 newly created provincial parks.

The Bruce Trail is recognized as an essential component of the parks system, and securing a continuous route for the Bruce Trail will be accorded the same priority as the establishment of the Niagara Escarpment parks system.

On the question of development-control delegation, the authority to issue development permits will be delegated expeditiously to upper-tier municipalities which express the desire to assume the responsibility and which meet the criteria. A condition of that delegation will be the requirement that development permits be issued in accordance with the Niagara Escarpment plan.

The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act will be amended to permit local municipalities with conforming official plans to administer development control.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission will continue to administer the development permit system until its delegation. The commission, in conjunction with line ministries, will then assist in developing a system to monitor the process. I am directing the staff of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development and the

Niagara Escarpment Commission to initiate discussions immediately with upper-tier municipalities regarding delegation and conformity.

As mentioned previously, the following are site-specific areas on the Niagara Escarpment where there has been consistent interest:

- 1. Fonthill, Niagara region, located on map 1 of the Niagara Escarpment plan: Cabinet endorses the recommendations of the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development in 1984 that the designation "escarpment protection" remain in effect.
- 2. Caledon, Peel region, located on map 4 of the Niagara Escarpment plan: In regard to the Regan-Graham proposal to establish a licensed quarry, the area was retained as "escarpment rural." Licensed pits and quarries producing in excess of 20,000 tonnes in "escarpment rural" require an amendment to the plan.
- 3. Beaver Valley, Grey county, located on map 6 of the plan: Cabinet has decided the lands in question will remain designated "escarpment protection."

10:10 a.m.

INTEGRATED HOMEMAKER PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Eves: I would like to announce the implemention of the government's integrated homemaker program for Ontario's frail elderly and disabled adults. This is one more example of this government's unwavering and unparalleled commitment to our province's elderly people.

Among the most important members of family and community life are our senior citizens, who have made enormous contributions to the development of this province. Over the past 15 years, the government of Ontario has been laying the foundation for a comprehensive system of services for the elderly. That infrastructure, which includes \$3.5 billion annually of services, including Ontario health insurance plan premium assistance, the guaranteed annual income system for the aged, Ontario tax credits, subsidized apartments, a comprehensive hospital system and a long-term-care system, is now in place.

In the words of the throne speech, we plan to build upon this foundation to "develop a far-reaching, community-based care system that will expand community programs and limit the growth of unnecessary institutional services so that our senior citizens can remain in their communities, in a manner that respects their dignity and their life-long contribution to society."

To bring about and maintain that communitybased care system, my ministry has been given the responsibility of introducing this integrated homemaker program for Ontario's frail elderly. This program will form the nucleus of a total home support system for the elderly that will also include an expansion of our home support programs such as Meals on Wheels, day programs and the Ministry of Health's home care program. This program will be managed in conjunction with the home care program.

How will the program be introduced? The Ministry of Community and Social Services has a great deal of experience in working with agencies and the community through our decentralized structure of four regional offices, 13 area offices and about 70 local offices.

The integrated homemaker program will provide, for those frail seniors and disabled adults who need it, any or all of the following services: light housekeeping, some personal care, cooking and shopping to help them remain at home in their own homes in security and comfort.

I have asked my staff to initiate discussions with local communities and to choose six or seven areas that will start to put this program for

seniors into place this fall.

I submit that we in the ministry and the ministries associated with us have an obligation to provide for our seniors, who have done so much to build and support this province in past years. This we have done, are doing and shall continue to do.

[Later]

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: The Minister of Community and Social Services gave a statement today about the integrated homemaker program. I must have a page missing because there is no page with an indication of the legislation that will allow this to happen.

The past Minister of Health, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), assured my leader, Mr. Drea assured me and Mr. Norton assured the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) there would have to be legislation to make

this possible and it is not included.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is far from being a point of privilege. It is a point of order because they should be distributed. However, I am sure you can discuss that further with the minister.

ORAL QUESTIONS

WHEAT EXPORTS

Mr. Riddell: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I should say first that

the minister was missed at a very important meeting in Earlton last night.

The minister should be aware that the United States is taking an increasingly protective stance regarding international trade for agricultural commodities in general. The minister may also be aware that in the specific area of grain exports, the United States is initiating a subsidy program that will force competitive discounting of our Canadian grain export prices.

The federal government provides subsidy assistance through the prairie provinces' Canadian Wheat Board to subsidize their international wheat sales, but Ontario's wheat exports are not similarly covered under this program. In any international competition, Ontario's wheat farmers will have to bear the cost themselves of competing against US wheat subsidies.

Given that the wheat industry has been urging the federal government to expand the export credit system necessary to maintain our wheat markets, what consultations has the minister had with his federal counterpart to ensure that Ontario's wheat farmers also receive this assistance?

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: In the period I have been in the ministry, probably the most time I have spent on any issue has been spent on the export issue facing Ontario farmers, the growing protectionism, the growing rate of challenges under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and some of the spinoffs relating to chloramphenycol and various other issues that have come up with which the honourable member will be quite familiar.

Right now we are spending a great deal of ministry time putting together background material on a number of commodities, and I have been talking to Mr. Wise on a number of occasions. In my presentation to the Commons committee in Ottawa on the tripartite stabilization situation, I also drew attention to the export situation and the potential trade problem we are facing.

Quite clearly, Canada is going to have to increase its efforts in international trade to remain competitive in a number of commodities. We have to become real experts very quickly in playing by the rules of international trade, because the other countries are certainly stepping up their efforts. Canada has to be good at it, because we just do not have the resources to compete in an international trade war with the European Community and the United States.

I hope in the long term the United States will come to agree more with the efforts that the provincial and Canadian governments are making in international trade, so that some of the conflicts going on right now will not occur in the long-distant future.

Mr. Riddell: The minister is aware, I am sure, that it is very difficult for Canada to compete with the export subsidies of the United States and the European Community. Has the minister's counterpart in Ottawa said he is going to do something about an export credit system for the farmers in Canada and, more particularly, the farmers in Ontario because we, as wheat producers in Ontario, are not covered under the wheat board? Has he said anything about an export credit system for our products here in Canada and in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: Export credits are just one of the issues on the table in dealing with competition in the export markets, but they are certainly mentioned every time discussions are held to consider exports. Export credits and export financing, not only in agriculture but also in the whole international marketplace in any type of exporting we do, are an issue that is front and centre. It is talked about not just in relation to wheat but also in relation to a number of other agricultural commodities with which the member will be quite familiar. Certainly it is talked about, as I say, along with a great many other issues that are quite critical right now on the whole export scene.

Mr. Riddell: Officials in the US Department of Agriculture have admitted Canada is a nonoffending country in regard to subsidized wheat sales and have indicated their own subsidy program will be used with some flexibility in different markets. Since the United States has admitted Canadian sales are fair competition, has the minister received any indication from his federal counterparts that they will be in communication with US officials to limit American subsidy targeting in our own markets, by which I mean Ontario markets?

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: The discussions that have been going on regarding all sorts of export financing and export activities have included precisely what the member is talking about. We are looking at the readjustment of our policies and the delivery of policies into our agricultural community as they relate to exports.

10:20 a.m.

It was a great surprise to us that things such as the farm land tax return, or whatever the proper term for it is—the property tax rebate—was included as a countervail situation on hogs. We have to look at each of these programs and try to come up with something that is helpful to our farmers, our wheat producers and others, that is not going to openly invite reprisals from our competitors. It is a matter of whether we automatically do what the other countries are doing, or try to come up with a more imaginative system to do essentially the same thing.

But it is quite obvious that if Ontario and Canada are going to be in the export game we have to look at matching, or in some other imaginative way come up with supports that will assist us in competing in that export market, regardless of what commodity we are talking about.

CREDIT RATING

Mr. Kwinter: This is a question for the Treasurer. Yesterday we had an opportunity to discuss the province's credit rating. We are all aware that last year the Conservative government had to go to New York not once but twice, one time with the then Premier in tow, to convince the rating house not to drop the provincial credit rating from triple A to double A.

In the light of the government's poor investment practices and massive election giveaway, how can the Treasurer think this government owns a triple-A credit rating today?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: First, may I clarify the misconception of the honourable member? It is my understanding that indeed last year, when there was an unusual activity taking place in New York at Standard and Poor's, there was a reassessment of every single provincial jurisdiction in Canada and each provincial jurisdiction was invited to come to New York. It is also my understanding that there was one visit during which the then Premier and the then Treasurer went to New York to discuss the plans of the government of Ontario.

I do not think the investment program of Ontario could be considered to be poor, and I think that is a somewhat malignant adjective to have been addressed to it. None the less, the plans for the introduction of throne speech initiatives have been looked at very carefully, they have been costed very carefully, and we believe that with similar careful management of the system, a similar exercise of restraint by the ministers of this government, we would be able to meet the plan we had established and which we are continuing to follow in Ontario to maintain and retain the triple-A credit rating.

Mr. Kwinter: How can this government lay claim to any kind of prudent financial management when it has lost \$500 million on a

\$650-million investment in Suncor and has allowed Ontario Hydro to go on a borrowing and building binge that leaves Hydro \$23 billion in the hole?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have a little difficulty with the mathematics of the member; obviously he needs a new computer or calculator. None the less, it is my understanding that although the value of his leader's 25 shares of Suncor may be down considerably from the price he paid for them when he bought them as a gimmick, as was noted in the newspaper, it was not a gimmick; it was indeed an investment considered by the leadership of this government to be appropriate.

We have not expended in interest payments the amount of money his leader suggested we had. Somewhat less than half that amount has been expended in interest payments. Indeed, I believe the other investments of this province have been

excellent.

The Ontario Hydro investment is entirely capital and, as a matter of fact, if the member would care to look, he would find that Hydro's financial situation is probably one of the best in North America. It might be helpful if he were to examine Hydro's debt-equity ratio and its capability for meeting its obligations, which is better than that of most companies. He might reverse some of his positions.

As I told him yesterday morning, the actual activity of Hydro in borrowing does not have any direct effect on the designation of a rating by the rating agency in New York. That is a fact.

Mr. Rae: There are things about this government we are going to miss, in a certain kind of way. Since we are not going to get a real, live budget from the Treasurer, only the ersatz document that she produced earlier in the week, I wonder if she would be so kind as to tell us what the revised figures are now from the Treasury with respect to the cost of the tax holiday for small business corporations for this year.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It always was our intention to look at what would happen with regard to the provision of support for small business, whatever might or might not have developed in the federal budget. Because there have been several significant provisions, a number of options are being considered at present. Therefore, I cannot give the member a firm figure, but on June 25 I most certainly could.

Mr. Kwinter: Ontario Hydro is part and parcel of rating houses' consideration of Ontario's debt. It is not separate, as the minister keeps

insisting and as she said on radio yesterday. She actually misled the public. I would ask that she read—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I understood the member to use the word "misled." I would ask him to withdraw.

Mr. Kwinter: I withdraw the remark. Could I insert the word "inadvertently"?

Mr. Speaker: I accept the withdrawal. Please continue with your supplementary question.

Mr. Kwinter: Would the Treasurer read Marie Cavanaugh's report in Standard and Poor's International Creditweek report, third quarter 1984, wherein she will find direct reference to Ontario Hydro? Does not Ontario borrow for Hydro on New York bond markets? Does not Ontario guarantee Hydro's whole debt? Clearly, Hydro's borrowing does directly affect our credit rating. Its massive borrowing has also restricted the province's ability to borrow for more important social and medical programs. Would the minister not agree?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would disagree with the misinterpretation the member is providing because I have before me a statement made yesterday on this subject by one of the senior officials of Standard and Poor's. The official position of Standard and Poor's is that the debt of Canadian provincially owned electric utilities is a contingent liability of the province only, and will affect the province's rating only if the utility cannot support its operations from its own resources. That is precisely what Ontario Hydro does; therefore, it does not have a direct effect upon the rating that is provided for Ontario.

10:30 a.m.

Mr. Rae: It is a good thing we are not driving our cars at this time of the day when the Treasurer is speaking. That is all I can say.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Why does the member not go out and try it?

Mr. Rae: It is different from what the minister said yesterday morning.

HEPATITIS VACCINE

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Health. I see him trying to go away. I would like to ask the minister a question on a very different subject. It has to do with the question of the availability and cost of the vaccine for hepatitis-B.

Can he explain the ministry's policy and the policy of the government of Ontario about the vaccine for hepatitis-B? Why are they not making this vaccine freely available to those who

are at risk? I stress those words, "to those who are at risk." The cost of the vaccine, according to the officials in his ministry to whom I spoke this morning and who were most forthcoming, is \$150-\$50 a shot for the three shots.

Does he not feel it would be in the public interest and appropriate, given the concern with respect to the increase in the incidence of hepatitis-B in the last 10 years in this province, for the government to change its policy with regard to the availability of the vaccine?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I certainly would be the last one in the world to play down the seriousness of this disease, but I think we should keep the issue in some perspective. The issue raised in a recent article in the Toronto Sun perhaps bears some correction. The article suggests the students in east-end schools are at a high risk because there are carriers of this disease among students.

It is important that we realize as much as one per cent of the people in North America are known to be carriers of hepatitis-B virus, but the American immunization practices advisory committee issued a statement as recently as June 7, 1985, saying that persons in casual contact with carriers are at a minimal risk and vaccine is not routinely recommended for them.

The leader of the third party will know we do supply, at no cost, the first immunization treatment to newborns. Subsequent treatments are provided through the health units at a cost for the vaccine and not the injection. We are considering extending that program for the series of three immunization treatments.

Mr. Rae: I want the minister to know I think the government should go beyond considering it, since it was on record as considering it at the time of the death of Dr. Colapinto. Now is the time to move. I would like to indicate to the minister that it is our understanding that Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan have all identified certain high-risk groups to whom they provide the vaccine for free. When we know that Ontario has a higher incidence of hepatitis-B than those provinces, surely it would be in the interest of the public for this province to be leading the way rather than following those other provinces.

I want to stress to the minister that I accept the idea that for those in casual contact there is not a general risk to the population, but surely there should not be any way the cost of the vaccine should be stopping or preventing people who need it and who are at some risk, from having access to it.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Rae: Given the record of the other provinces, does the minister not think Ontario should be providing the vaccination for free for those groups that are determined by local medical officers of health and boards of health to be at some risk?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: The member is correct in saying other provinces have a program similar to the one he is asking Ontario to put in place. I have not seen any data myself, so I am not sure he is correct in assuming that Ontario has a higher incidence of hepatitis than these other jurisdictions. If he has that information, I would be delighted if he would share it with me.

I think his point is well taken. I have indicated we are considering expanding the program for newborns, and I will take under consideration his position with respect to other high-risk groups.

Mr. Nixon: Now that the schools in the metropolitan area have been publicly identified where there are young people who are carriers, does the minister not think the concern felt by the staff and the parents of the other children in those schools would warrant something more than further consideration and that there ought to be action without delay?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I want to go back to my original statement to point out that there are indeed known hepatitis carriers right across the population base. To define certain racial groups or sectors of the population as being high-risk groups, yes, the member is correct, and I think in the light of the two questions I have had from the member for York South we do need to examine whether a program of immunization should be implemented within the parameters of those high-risk groups.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I wonder whether the minister is aware of a statement that Douglas Kincaid, executive director of the Canadian Liver Foundation, made earlier this year. He said: "Ontario is leading the pack. Compare provincial rates of infection and you will see that Ontario is so high it runs right off the bloody chart."

I would also like to make the minister aware of a case in my area in Windsor. I received a call from an employee who works three hours a day at Metropolitan General Hospital and who comes in contact with a chronic patient who is currently carrying hepatitis-B. The position of the board of that hospital is that full-time employees will have the vaccination paid for but part-time employees will not have it paid for.

Does the minister not understand-

Mr. Speaker: I believe the question was, "Are you aware?"

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The final question is, does the minister not understand there has to be a province-wide policy so that all individuals who are going to come in contact with this disease are properly protected for public health reasons?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: We have indicated to hospitals and to other health agencies that those coming into contact with hepatitis victims or hepatitis carriers should have the protection of the immunization. The hospitals can, within their own operation, offer to exercise some discretion in how they implement those programs.

With respect to the honourable member's first question—am I aware of Mr. Kincaid's statement?—I think it is important that he share it with me, that we share any other information with respect to this disease and that we come to grips with the whole question of how extensive the immunization program should be.

10:40 a.m.

HAZARDOUS CONTAMINANTS AND STANDARDS BRANCH

Mr. Rae: I have another question of the Minister of the Environment. I was hoping she would be making a statement today announcing the savaging in her department of the branch that was supposed to be responsible for setting standards for hazardous substances. I am surprised she did not make the statement today; perhaps she will make it on Monday.

I would like to ask the minister whether she can confirm that in February her deputy minister issued a verbal directive—I guess that means he talked—saying that public involvement in the setting of standards was not to go ahead. Can she confirm that no individuals from the public have been appointed to the Environmental Standards Advisory Committee, which was to counsel the ministry in its standards-setting deliberations?

Hon. Ms. Fish: I can confirm that the report in this morning's Globe and Mail is full of unwarranted nonsense and is exceedingly incorrect. Specifically, there has been no directive whatsoever that the public not be involved in standards setting—quite the contrary.

Far from being disbanded, the branch itself has been enhanced by enlarging it as part of an intergovernmental relations and hazardous contaminants co-ordination branch. Additional staff has been placed, and the branch has been brought forward in a fashion that, in my view and in the

view of the government, responds to our real need, which is to ensure we have the highest possible environmental standards, particularly with respect to hazardous contaminants, and moreover that those standards are properly co-ordinated with the standards of our sister provinces and the federal government.

One of the most serious problems the people of Ontario have been confronted with in incident after incident has been the travelling of hazardous contaminants from other jurisdictions with different and much lower standards. That has been the principal threat to our people. Ensuring that we have high standards right across the board in this country has been the main goal in reorganizing and strengthening the role of the hazardous contaminants co-ordination branch.

Mr. Rae: Apart from the savage attack on a defenseless newspaper that has no means to protect itself, I do not think I heard an answer to my question.

My question to the minister did not refer to any particular newspaper. It is a simple question. Did Dr. Dyer, as deputy minister, say in February that the process of consultation with the public in the setting of standards was not to go ahead? Several meetings had been set up with the Canadian Environmental Law Association and a number of other groups. May I have an answer to that question?

Second, and directly following from that, can she tell us why apparently no one has been appointed to the Environmental Standards Advisory Committee? Has that committee been disbanded? People have been appointed to housing authorities across the province, so why not to that group?

Hon. Ms. Fish: From the uncertain harangue coming from the leader of the third party, let me return to the point of the reorganization, which was to strengthen the controls. The public process involved in standards setting, rather than not proceeding, is now being directed to proceed and is under way right now with a view to a much higher standard of protection with hazardous contaminants than had been possible with the previous level of organization.

I note as well that the work on the coming together of standards on an intergovernmental basis, so that we have the highest possible standards across this country, is work that involves not only the branch itself, federal toxicity studies and branches, but also interested members of the public, especially environmental groups with particular expertise. That involvement will now proceed within the context of a

much stronger and much better enhanced hazardous contaminants co-ordination branch.

It seems to me that action is clearly in the best interests of protecting the people of Ontario.

Mr. McGuigan: In setting standards to agree with other jurisdictions, is the minister really saying that if it is good enough for Reagan and Mulroney, it is good enough for the people of Ontario?

Hon. Ms. Fish: What unmitigated rubbish! The entire point of what we are doing is to ensure that Ontario will remain the leader it is in standards for hazardous contaminants. We have the highest standards in dealing with hazardous contaminants in North America and are among the leaders in the industrialized world. Contrary to the suggestion that we should have a weak branch that should be open to the possible pressures of other jurisdictions, this reorganization and this government have moved to ensure that other jurisdictions rise to our standards. This is not the time for the lowest common denominator; this is a time for strong protection.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: The minister is performing what I would have thought was almost impossible in this House. She is making most of us here nostalgic for Morley Kells. I want to congratulate her on having done that. I did not think that was possible, but she has pulled it off.

Mr. Speaker: Is that the supplementary?

Mr. Rae: There is some disagreement on this side on that. The minister has two days to go.

Could the minister please answer my question? I do not think she has answered it. The question I asked her was quite clear. Meetings with the public dealing with the question of the setting of standards for water were cancelled in February and March. That took place. I hope she is not denying it took place as a result of a directive coming from the deputy minister.

Why has no one been appointed to the Environmental Standards Advisory Committee? Why have there been no appointments made to that particular group? If the minister is taking public involvement seriously, if she is beefing it up, why has that not happened? Surely that would be a tangible, physical side of this spiritual well, which she says now exists in the Ministry of the Environment.

Hon. Ms. Fish: I have tried to answer what I believe is an improper implication, or at least I infer from the leader of the third party's question an improper implication, that there has been

some attempt to lessen the importance of setting hazardous-contaminant standards and somehow to move away from public participation, particularly that of the informed public.

I tried very clearly to indicate that the obvious steps to be followed and the steps that a responsible government wishes to follow are to enhance the position of the hazardous contaminants branch, to establish its strengthening through a reorganization and then to move as we are now moving to ensure proper public participation in the course of working with that enhanced and strengthened branch. That is the action of this government.

10:50 a.m.

BAIL SUPERVISION

Mr. McKessock: I have a question for the Minister of Correctional Services. Last year the former Minister of Correctional Services reluctantly reversed his decision to close 12 bail supervision programs across Ontario. These programs offer alternatives to jail for those accused who cannot afford to put up bail. The minister reluctantly extended funding while he ordered yet another study into whether the programs were effective or not.

According to a ministry spokesman, the study was supposed to ensure that the government was getting the best bang for the buck. I understand the report is now complete. Will the minister tell us what specific recommendations he will implement as a result of this study and will he also table the report?

Hon. Mr. Cousens: I thank the honourable member for asking me a question. I have not yet had a chance to read the report. When I do I will be pleased to share certain parts of that with him and, if possible, all parts.

Mr. McKessock: The interim budgets of the bail program are due to expire next month. Can the minister confirm to this House that the budgets will be renewed, or is it the minister's policy to continue to fund these programs on an ad hoc basis?

Hon. Mr. Cousens: I can assure the member I will be pleased to look into that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, before I ask my question: This is the first time I have had a chance to participate in question period in almost a year. I would like to take the opportunity to thank members of the House from all sides who provided me with a great deal of support after my heart attack in the fall. It was very nice to receive letters from

people who have had the same kind of difficulties and from others who wished me well.

I would especially like to thank my colleagues for their support during the time I was away, among them the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), who was delighted to jump back into the role of critic for Community and Social Services again for a brief period. In fact, he still will not give me back most of my files.

DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is of the Minister of Community and Social Services, with whom I hope to have the same kind of cordial relationship I had with Mr. Drea.

Mr. Foulds: It will only be two days.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister is lucky. Two days may not result in my having a heart

attack and his leaving politics.

My question has to do with the deinstitutionalization of the mentally retarded. Is the minister aware that within his ministry at the moment there is a document entitled Homes for Special Care, a presentation dated May 7, which is being circulated through his ministry and is being discussed in the various regional offices? It outlines a program for deinstitutionalizing retarded children, many of them multiply handicapped, who are in nursing homes and homes for special care in this province.

Is he aware that this is on track? If he is aware, why has there been no public announcement of this? What is the status of this deinstitutionalization and does the minister support the recommendations in the report?

Hon. Mr. Eves: I promise never to call the honourable member a wacko or refer to him in any such way, shape or form. I am sure we will have a much more cordial relationship.

No, I am not specifically aware of the document to which the member refers. With respect to children's mental health, however, in Ontario the numbers show that many more people are not in institutions than are. In March 1984 slightly more than 800 children were in institutions and some 21,000 were in some sort of day counselling or day treatment program. That has been the case and those have been the proportions, in my understanding, for a good number of years.

I will certainly look into the matter to which the member refers and get back to him on it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The minister should know that these children are like the children who were in Ark Eden Nursing Home and who were recently deinstitutionalized at a cost of \$115 a day for the homes in North York and about \$100 a day for the home in Barrie. They need very expensive care because they often have major medical problems as well as their retardation difficulties.

This report includes sending 120 people back to the big institutions for the retarded. It includes having for-profit centres for these people to go to after deinstitutionalization.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I want the minister to be aware of these facts before I ask the question.

It is dumping people into the community at rates of support and per diems that are \$40 and \$50 lower than those kids are getting who have been deinstitutionalized from Ark Eden. I want the minister to give us his assurance that this will not proceed over the summer, as his deputy minister seems to want it to do, and it will not proceed as that five-year plan did without a full discussion in the standing committee on social development of this Legislature, in recognition of the minority power in this province.

Hon. Mr. Eves: I have given the commitment to the member that I will look into it. I will get back to him on it and then we can discuss it further.

EASTERN ONTARIO SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENT

Mr. Sterling: I have a question of the Treasurer. The throne speech referred to the eastern Ontario subsidiary agreement. Could the minister expand on the kind of program that will include to assist the areas of eastern Ontario, particularly outside the regional municipality of Ottawa-Carleton?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As I am sure the honourable member knows, the eastern Ontario subsidiary agreement, or EOSA as it is called, actually expires this September. It has been an extremely successful regional development agreement. To this time, it has delivered about \$42 million to eastern Ontario over a five-year period for the purposes of industrial and business development, primarily in the areas of agriculture, small business, tourism, infrastructure and forestry.

Because of its imminent expiration, I have already communicated by telex with the Honourable Sinclair Stevens, who is the federal minister responsible, asking that negotiations begin now and be concluded during the summer for the successor of EOSA. It appears that small business, tourism, and agriculture still will require the additional kind of support this kind of

agreement can provide under the federalprovincial umbrella. We are most anxious to ensure it does continue.

Mr. Sargent: I would like to ask the minister whether she would mind if the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling) and the member for Armourdale (Mr. McCaffrey) would run for our party next time.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Was that a supplementary question or just one of the honourable member's usual aberrations?

IDEA CORP.

Mr. Offer: My question is to the Minister of Industry and Trade. In 1981 the government formed a crown corporation named the Innovation Development for Employment Advancement or IDEA Corp. Apparently, its purpose was to bring Ontario technologically into the 21st century before the 21st century gets here. In the light of the fact that since this corporation's inception only 20 projects have been funded, could the minister tell us how close this corporation is getting us to the year 2000 now?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The IDEA Corp. is going over a new business plan which is currently being reviewed by me and my ministry officials. I am not totally satisfied with the development of the corporation as it was originally intended. However, a total of \$25 million has been invested in innovative technology and industrial development through the programs that are brought through the IDEA Corp.

As a result of some of the changes that I anticipate will occur with respect to the upper level management of IDEA Corp., we feel it is very possible for it to continue to move towards meeting the objectives that were originally set out for that corporation. However, after thorough, complete, total review of the situation, if we are not satisfied with the business plan or the way we feel that corporation is focusing its objectives, then we may have to take other action, which may result in something else happening with the corporation.

Mr. Offer: One of those initial objectives was that this corporation would fund itself and not be a burden on the taxpayer. As it is four years since its inception, can the minister indicate whether this corporation has been meeting this initial goal, that since its formation in 1981 it has been paying its own way?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: No, it has not met its total requirement in being self-sufficient from revenues. That is not unexpected. There are very few

government agencies in the business of attempting to help other corporations and introducing new, innovative technology, which the member referred to as the 21st century kind of thing, that do not have a cost associated with them. That is not unexpected or particularly disappointing from my perspective. What we want to see, however, is that we move towards that concept of self-sufficiency and that the corporation carries out its original mandate. I assure the member that is going to happen.

11 a.m.

Mr. Foulds: As the IDEA Corp. was the flagship of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development on which the Conservatives won the election in 1981, why have they let this corporation be such an unmitigated failure for four years? Why did the government not taken action with its management years ago to either wind it up or get it on the right track?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I disagree completely with the rhetoric that it is an "unmitigated failure." It has not been as successful as we may have liked; that is true. It has not been described at any point in time as the flagship of the BILD program. I do not mind verbal exaggeration from that side of the House on occasion, but obviously the member for Port Arthur is taking verbal licence of an extreme degree over there.

All I am suggesting to the honourable member is that he would want a minister in charge and responsible for that corporation to review the mandate to make absolutely certain that the taxpayers are getting a return on their investment and that the corporation is operating in a responsible manner. I assure the member I am going to make sure it happens.

Mr. Foulds: Do it today.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I may do it later this afternoon. Why does he not come with me?

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Last Friday I questioned the Minister of Energy (Mr. Harris) about high prices charged for gasoline and home heating oil in northern Ontario, a serious problem that also applies to many rural areas in southern Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: To which minister are you addressing this question?

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am addressing this question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

The Minister of Energy at that point was rather confused about whether gasoline prices were regulated by the Ontario Energy Board. Perhaps the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is more concerned about the interests of the consumers and commercial establishments in the north.

Why do northerners have to pay eight, 10 or even 15 cents a litre more for gasoline than those who live in metropolitan areas of the south? Can this minister explain why it is we can have one price for beer in Ontario but we cannot have fair prices for gasoline in this province?

Hon. Mr. Runciman: It is not an issue I have had an opportunity to review, but I assume we have to look at the transportation costs involved.

One of the areas we are looking at—and we met with a group just last week—is a methanolethanol fuel blend we can market in northern and northwestern Ontario areas. We are attempting to work out some areas in terms of regulation change whereby we can allow that firm to come in on an experimental basis and provide those kinds of fuels to northern Ontarians at a much lower cost than they are currently paying for fuel.

Mr. Morin-Strom: The question pertains to gasoline prices and the prices of home heating oil, both of which are used in vast quantities by northerners. Northerners have to pay more because of longer distances. They have a colder climate, so they have to use more home heating oil in the winter. The fact is that those are the major uses of fuel in northern Ontario.

Why does this government continue to load further competitive disadvantages and penalties on to the people of northern Ontario, compounding the disadvantages they already face, by allowing the oil companies to charge unjustified prices that cannot be explained by the high transportation costs?

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Mr. Morin-Strom: Does the minister agree that during the past 42 years this government should have taken action?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I believe the question has been asked thoroughly.

Hon. Mr. Runciman: I think they should get together with their friends concerning competitive disadvantage and the free market system. There seems to be a difference of opinion when one is talking about beer in one instance, as an example.

Some of the reasons that have been provided to me regarding gasoline prices are simply that you have less competition, higher transfer costs,

higher transportation costs and higher operating costs. Gasoline prices are set by competitive prices in the marketplace. Obviously, those guys over there do not believe in the free marketplace. Government intervention is their answer to everything; Big Brother has to be involved in every facet of our lives.

Mr. O'Neil: Does the minister believe all he is being told on this subject? Has he been talking with his counterpart in Ottawa to find out just when the combines investigation will be reporting on this subject? The people in the combines division feel the gas companies in this province have bilked the people of Ontario of billions of dollars.

Hon. Mr. Runciman: No, I have not had an opportunity to consult with my colleague at the federal level, but I have difficulty in accepting the charges the honourable member has just made.

WATER QUALITY

Hon. Ms. Fish: I have the answer to a question asked previously by the leader of the third party, the member for York South (Mr. Rae). I was asked to reply on the matter of reports that were allegedly not available, and I wish to advise the following.

A report on acid sensitivity of lakes in Ontario is now being printed and will be available in the beginning of July.

Currently available by ringing through to the ministry are the following reports:

Emission Inventory of Ontario and Eastern North America During 1980-1983 With Emphasis on the Sudbury Shutdown Period; Meteorological Studies to Quantify the Effects of Sudbury Emissions on Precipitation Quality and Air Quality During 1980-1983 With Emphasis on the Shutdown Period; An Analysis of the Effects of the Sudbury Emissions Sources on Wet and Dry Deposition in Ontario;

Examination of Monthly Wet Sulphate Deposition by a Lagrangian Model and Its Application to Study the Effects of Source Control on Receptors; Summary: Source Apportionment Analysis of Air and Precipitation Data to Determine the Contribution of the Sudbury Smelters to Atmospheric Deposition in Ontario; and Acidic Precipitation in Ontario Study—Water Quality Changes in Sudbury Area Lakes, 1974-1976 to 1981-1983.

The following are reports currently available that were prepared as data for the International Joint Commission studies:

Municipal and Municipally Operated Wastewater Treatment Facilities in the Great Lakes Basin; and 1983 Inventory of Industrial Point Source Discharges in the Great Lakes Basin.

A Survey and Evaluation of Organic Compounds in Nine Sewage Treatment Plant Effluents in Southern Ontario is available on request, with a caveat from the director of the water resources branch, who felt the data were flawed and scientifically dubious. With that caveat, the report has been and is now available.

A Review of the Municipal Abatement Programs in the Great Lakes Basin is also available. Released yesterday were the Effects of Dredging and Lakefilling at the Toronto Harbour and East Headland in 1982 and 1983; and Historical Development and Quality of the Toronto Waterfront Sediments—Part I.

To be available shortly from the Canada-Ontario review board is Trace Organics in Ontario Drinking Water Along the Niagara River. To be available later this year are four reports, as yet unnamed, on Lake Superior intensive studies at Thunder Bay, Nipigon and Jackfish Bay in 1983.

11:10 a.m.

PESTICIDES

Mr. McGuigan: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. We have information that did not come from the newspaper reports this morning.

Mr. McClellan: In the Star?

Mr. McGuigan: No; the one in that great Liberal paper, the Globe and Mail.

Our report came directly from the ministry, and it is that pesticide officers are being reduced in number from an overworked six to four, whereas there probably should be 10.

Is the minister aware that the states of Florida and New Mexico—I think New Mexico has been added to that list—are passing their own laws in regard to pesticides because they no longer trust the federal Environmental Protection Agency laws? That has been brought about by the fact that they are finding all sorts of pesticides in their drinking water.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think The member has already asked the question.

Mr. McGuigan: Does the minister think that is fair to the farmers of Ontario who want to be on the safe side? They do not want to contaminate the water, but they want to be able to continue using those pesticides. Is it safe to the farmers

and the people of Ontario to reduce the number of those pesticide officers?

Hon. Ms. Fish: Some of the officers have been reassigned in two areas. We have looked for reassignments to assist in beefing up our water resources branch and to assist in beefing up hazardous contaminants handling in the waste management branch.

In the case of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides, I have specifically requested that the entire matter of reviewing those products for use in this province be undertaken with a view to strengthening it, including licensing, inspection and enforcement, all with a view to protecting not only the farmers who may use such products but also the public.

My officials and I are extremely concerned about the recent practice on the part of the federal government in suggesting licensing for certain products over the specific objections of the Department of National Health and Welfare, which is charged under our system with assessing toxicity and safety. It is my view that process must be substantially reviewed and strengthened. We would prefer that the responsible federal level undertake its responsibilities and discharge them correctly, because at present we have a very uncertain patchwork of approvals across the country.

Mr. McGuigan: I appreciate the minister's concern, but I cannot relate her concern to the fact that she has reduced the number of people. Will she answer my question as to how she can carry this out with a reduced number of people?

Hon. Ms. Fish: Perhaps the honourable member does not realize the process and the number of parties involved. The Pesticides Advisory Committee provides input on the appropriate licensing. The inspection and enforcement branch reviews the products and ensures they are utilized safely and that there is no inadvertent travelling of the products into our water systems. There are also the ongoing testing branches, for air and water in particular. All have collectively been strengthened.

For example, the 85-member enforcement branch newly announced as coming on board a complete review of the procedures involved in the authorization of any pesticides, herbicides or fungicides, appropriate training and information for our farming community and local medical officers of health, and licensing.

As I indicated before, the total package is a strengthened one; notwithstanding, I am asking that people with particular skills and backgrounds be assigned to waste management and

water resources so we can monitor, track, control and protect in the critical follow-up areas against potential environmental hazard in the use of such pesticides, herbicides and fungicides.

VISITOR

Mr. Sargent: I would like to point out that Ron Oswald, the president of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, is in the Speaker's gallery with his wife.

PETITIONS

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Ward: I have three petitions, all of which are addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition

the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas any action to extend public funding to separate Roman Catholic secondary schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas it is uncertain whether extension would contravene the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and

Freedoms; and

"Whereas in democratic societies there is a recognized convention which respects the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters are debated in the Legislative Assembly, with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard before an appropriate committee of the Legislature;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on

the government:

"(1) to seek a constitutional referral prior to any implementation to determine whether extension would conflict with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"(2) to debate fully the issue of extension prior to any implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for the people to appear and be heard."

The three petitions bear 114 signatures. They are from Parkside High School, Ancaster High and Vocational School and Highland Secondary School.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PUBLIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McCague moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Mitchell, first reading of Bill 16, An Act to amend the Public Commercial Vehicles Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. McCague: This bill would allow the minister to issue rewritten licences. The rewrites are now out to the industry.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McCague moved, seconded by Hon. Ms. Fish, first reading of Bill 17, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. McCague: The most significant feature of this bill is to increase driver licence suspension periods for those convicted of drinking and driving offences. The suspension period for first offenders will be increased to six months from three months and the suspension for a second offence will be raised to one year from the previous six months. Convictions for a third or subsequent impaired driving offence will continue to cost drivers their licences for a period of three years.

These changes will fulfil our commitment to the Canadian Conference of Motor Transport Administrators and will bring the suspension periods in line with those in other provinces. We are also introducing some minor changes in wording to concur with the amendments that have just been made to the Criminal Code of Canada regarding drinking and driving.

Another amendment requires all motorcycles manufactured since 1971 to be equipped with rear-view mirrors.

11:20 a.m.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. McCague moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Eves, first reading of Bill 18, An Act to amend the Off-Road Vehicles Act, 1983.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. McCague: The purpose of the bill is to extend to licensed trappers the same right to operate three-wheeled, all-terrain vehicles on the highway as is already enjoyed by farmers. In addition, at the request of the Solicitor General (Mr. Gregory) this bill contains an amendment that revokes the authority of municipal bylaw enforcement officers to carry out the provisions of the Off-Road Vehicles Act, 1983. The powers of arrest contained in the act are felt to be inappropriate to this category of officer.

GOOD SAMARITAN ACT

Mr. Haggerty moved, seconded by Mr. Newman, first reading of Bill 19, An Act to relieve persons from liability in respect of

Voluntary Emergency Medical and First Aid Services.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Haggerty: The purpose of this bill is to relieve persons from liability in respect of voluntary emergency first aid assistance or medical services rendered at or near the scene of an accident or other sudden emergency.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Hon. Ms. Fish: I am pleased to join this debate today and address an area that has long been a concern of this government and the people of Ontario. That area is the matter of environmental issues.

I might add that during the recent election I had the opportunity to discuss a number of environmental issues with residents of the great riding of St. George, which I am proud to represent. It has been my pleasure in the last few weeks to have the opportunity of reflecting many of their concerns by serving as Minister of the Environment.

Since Ontario became the first jurisdiction in North America to establish an agency responsible for the environment, our province has truly been a world leader in protecting and preserving our valuable natural environment. Very simply, we on this side believe that a clean, safe and healthy environment is fundamental to everything else we do. It is fundamental to our jobs, our neighbourhoods, our recreation and health, all of which are dependent upon a clean environment.

That is why my government put forward in the throne speech more than a dozen initiatives to protect our environment with utmost vigilance. These initiatives are designed to build upon the strong foundation we have already achieved for Ontario. They will enable us to strengthen our protection and to implement the significant advances that are now possible in environmental management.

We are strongly committed to identifying priorities and solutions for our environmental problems in an atmosphere of full co-operation with both environmentalists and the general public. We believe we will be most successful in

achieving our goals if our resources are pooled, our knowledge is shared and our strategies coordinated

That is why I contacted representatives of major environmental groups in Ontario during my first day as Minister of the Environment and invited them to present me with their priorities for action. Those briefings are now complete and I am pleased that many of the initiatives cited by the groups have been taken advantage of by the government and are included in the speech from the throne.

The groups I met with included such important organizations as Pollution Probe, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Conservation Council of Ontario. I have emphasized to these groups my openness in sharing the ministry's resources with them and I am pleased to report that a valuable and productive relationship is developing.

Let me deal for a moment or two with some of the initiatives announced in the speech from the throne. The first I will touch on is the Niagara River.

The Niagara River Toxics Report, based on 1981 data released in Canada and the United States last year, identified 61 problem industrial waste sites in the US and only five in Ontario. If the US criteria for selecting sites had been applied to both sides of the border, only one Ontario site would have qualified for listing. The report pinpointed 10 facilities that were responsible for some 90 per cent of the Niagara River pollution that could be traced to specific industrial or municipal sources. Nine of these major polluters are on the US side of the river.

By 1982, my ministry had already ordered the one Ontario polluter to clean up its act, and that plant has now cut its discharge of heavy metals by 85 per cent. We have also taken cleanup action on all other Ontario polluters named in the report. Now we must continue to impress upon American polluters and the various US government agencies that they must take full responsibility for their remaining share of this very serious problem.

The Niagara River improvement team was created in January 1982 to focus on pollution from industries, sewage plants and old chemical dumps, particularly those across the river. This team reviews and comments on all discharge permits to be issued to industries and plants in New York state, and it is conducting its own studies on the US chemical dumps so that Ontario can offer advice to the US on cleanup methods.

But we are not content to sit back and advise. If we do not see tangible results that indicate the US is cleaning up pollution sources on its side of the river, my ministry is committed to pursue this matter aggressively before the courts.

The second initiative deals with polychlorinated biphenyls. Turning to waste management, recent events in Kenora have focused public attention on one waste management area more than ever before. That area, of course, is PCBs.

Since government staff stopped a truck carrying a leaking PCB transformer and began mopping up the spill, the media and the average person on the street have been confronted with some of the basic issues in PCB management.

A few weeks ago, for example, I met with fellow Environment ministers from the federal government and other provinces across Canada. The subject was PCBs, and I took with me an agenda for action. This included a firm Ontario action plan and some specific commitments that I was seeking from other provinces and, most especially, from the federal government. What I was seeking, simply stated, was the adoption of a breakthrough for the management, control and eventual elimination of this contaminant from our environment.

The response was positive, and I believe we will achieve all these objectives. In fact, I am confident there is now a national will to provide the people of Canada with prompt and resolute action to deal with PCBs and to eliminate them as a hazard to public health and environmental integrity.

We turn, then, to the protection fund. On the provincial scene, my ministry has atrail-blazing agenda for dealing with a broad range of hazardous and liquid industrial wastes, an agenda that I am sure is shared by the majority of Ontario residents. We want to be sure our wastes are controlled from their point of origin to their final safe disposition. We want protection to ensure that these wastes do not come back to haunt us either through spills on a highway or through seepage from a landfill. We want assurance that our waste management systems are monitored thoroughly and consistently, that any problems are identified and corrected promptly, and that anyone who puts us at risk will bear the full penalty for his or her negligence or lawless intent.

In the speech from the throne, the government announced a \$100-million environmental protection fund to provide the assurance and protection that we want and need. This is a comprehensive program that deals with all aspects of waste

management and related environmental protection. It stems directly from the Blueprint for Waste Management in Ontario, which was tabled in 1982 by the Ministry of the Environment to launch a full public review of these issues and the options available to us.

Environmental groups, concerned citizens, industry, business and municipalities have all worked together with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and other government agencies to refine this blueprint, and full-fledged action plans are now under way to implement the changes required.

11:30 a.m.

The new environmental protection fund provides for full waste site security, inspection to ensure that no landfill is leaking liquid contaminants or gases to threaten our homes or water supplies. It ensures proper landfill cleanup and restoration and provides funding for the emergency measures required to deal with any hazardous waste crisis that may arise.

Unlike the US Superfund, which deals only with hazardous industrial waste sites, Ontario's fund will be used to provide cleanup and security measures at any problem site—industrial, private or municipal—on a priority basis.

The Ministry of the Environment is compiling an inventory of all active and closed sites, of which we believe there are some 3,500 in Ontario. Data on these sites are being computerized and priorities will be set for further testing and screening for problem sites.

The new protection fund will be used to clean up problem sites whether they contain municipal or industrial waste, providing gas control, leachate collection and treatment and the other necessary measures up to and including the removal of waste to a safe disposal area. Where home wells are affected, for example, the fund will also provide a quick, alternative supply of safe drinking water.

Priority will be given to known problem sites which contain hazardous wastes or sites where a hazard to human health or the environment is identified. As problem sites are identified, the best in cleanup and environmental protection measures will be taken to solve the problems and ensure continuing future security to neighbours of the sites.

In the area of industrial waste control, new waste management regulations will establish clearly the proper handling, treatment and disposition for each and every type of hazardous and liquid industrial waste in a manner compatible with the regulations under the federal

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act which come into force on July 1 of this year.

The new Ontario regulations will set out the responsibilities of the industries that create wastes, the haulers who carry them and the site operators who treat and dispose of them. Industrial waste generators will be required to register their operations and waste with the Ministry of the Environment, to fill out a waybill for each shipment of waste and to ensure those wastes are properly disposed of. The generator will be held accountable for the waste from start to finish.

On the enforcement side, the first priority of the ministry's special investigations and enforcement branch is industrial waste violation. This branch has been strengthened to 64 investigators backed by aerial surveillance capabilities and a team of environmental forensic scientists.

Amendments to environmental legislation will provide increased deterrents in the form of stiffer fines. A new fine structure, providing penalties of up to \$50,000 for a single offence, will ensure that pollution simply does not pay.

The expanded enforcement branch will also apply the best investigative technology to guard against illegal dumping and to detect any improper operation at waste sites.

On acid rain, Operation Shield, which I announced last week, is a three-way attack on the problem. First, it is a firm commitment to ensure modernization and cleanup of Ontario's major sources—our smelters and coal-fired electrical generating plants.

Second, it incorporates an all-out effort to persuade US authorities to reduce their emissions which threaten our waters and forests.

Finally, it launches a program of effective restoration activities to revitalize acid-damaged lakes and to protect sensitive, threatened waters.

The federal government has committed some \$150 million to the modernization of Canada's smelters. While we have not negotiated specific amounts, I estimate that about \$100 million of that money will be applied to Ontario sources. This would assist these sources to meet our abatement target.

As honourable members are aware, Inco pledged at its recent annual meeting that by 1994 it would reduce its sulphur emissions by 50 per cent from the 1984 levels. That is on top of a 25 per cent reduction from the 1980 base to 1984. The regulations I announced last week are designed to make certain that Inco will meet these targets.

We have been pressing Ontario Hydro to develop sulphur dioxide limestone scrubber technology which could be applied to the coal-fired generating plants to achieve further cutbacks in emissions at these plants.

We have been working with the federal government and other provinces to ensure the feasibility of increasing our use of low-sulphur coal at Hydro generating plants. As their developments become operational, we will be preparing regulatory amendments incorporating these improvements as further SO₂ emission control measures.

We also have been working closely with the federal government to develop constructive and positive initiatives against acid rain. Under a new agreement, the federal government has offered to play a lead role in modernizing and cleaning up smelters, while other industries and utilities have been identified as provincial initiatives.

Federal-provincial studies, in co-operation with industry, show that technology is available which will cleanse substantially the sulphur oxides emitted from smelter stacks and, at the same time, modernize the smelting process. Economic aspects aside, there are direct environmental benefits, a reduction of emission of sulphur dioxides which result in environmental acid rain.

The significance of these benefits is worth emphasizing. Sudbury smelters cut their emissions in half between 1970 and 1980 and have reduced them by a further 25 per cent since that time. They are now committed to another major reduction by 1994.

The substantial effort on the part of Ontario industry in response to government requirements will drive down the impact of Ontario-based SO_2 to negligible levels in Ontario's environment. The direct environmental benefits of cleaning up Ontario smelters also go to other provinces, to the northeastern United States and, finally, to the total global loading of sulphur dioxide.

More significant to Ontario, of course, are the indirect environmental benefits I hope to encourage. I believe the efforts we have made in achieving and making commitments to substantial reductions to our emissions will set an unprecedented example and provide Ontario and Canada with a strong part to play in our efforts to achieve further United States reductions in emissions.

There is absolutely no room for doubt that sources in the United States midwest are continuing to punish Ontario's lakes and forests with wave after wave of acid rain. There is also

no doubt that the resistance of our sensitive environment is weakening under this onslaught. Many lakes have been driven to the point of no return unless direct revitalizing measures are undertaken now.

The second thrust of Operation Shield is a program of preventive medicine and restoration for those lakes which cannot wait for the long-term effect of emission controls. We are launching a program to neutralize acid waters and restore the vitality of sensitive and valued lakes. The lakes to be treated will be chosen on a priority basis from about 200 lakes that have lost almost all their native sport fish and which would otherwise never recover, even with reduced acid rain loading.

This is not just a matter of dumping in limestone and walking away. We are looking at a thorough evaluation to determine and prescribe the specific treatment needed to revitalize each lake. We will reduce acidity and restore resistance. With reduced acidity, toxic metals dissolved in the water will settle out. In turn, this should lead to lower levels of mercury, for example, in fish from treated lakes.

Our liming and lake restoration program is based on sound research and proven in a full-scale experimental program. Research is the foundation of all Ontario's efforts to combat acid rain, including the initiatives in Operation Shield. In our dealings with Ontario sources, we have been able to prove the benefits of pollution reduction.

When we talk about the problem with the United States authorities, we can establish scientifically every claim we make in support of our case. Our research laboratory at Dorset in the heart of the Muskoka and Haliburton resort areas is the only one in the world to develop and use a fully integrated system of studying acid fallout from the air to forests, through soil to the lakes.

The scientific results we produce are respected around the world and challenged only by those whose vision is clouded by self-interest and lack of sincere commitment to pollution control. We are sharing our resources and working jointly on specific studies with several US states, West Germany, Norway and Sweden as part of our continuing international effort.

This brings me to the third major thrust of Operation Shield, our continuing efforts to address acid rain as a continental and worldwide issue. On the global scale, Ontario was a prime mover in the unprecedented East-West Accord signed in Munich, West Germany, in 1984. Canada and 12 other western nations pledged to

cut their emissions by 30 per cent by 1993. Several eastern bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, made less specific commitments to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions which affect other countries. Notable holdouts were the United Kingdom and the United States.

Ontario and the other eastern provinces have agreed with the federal government to an overall cutback to 50 per cent of existing levels of sulphur dioxide from our major sources, taking a giant step beyond this international accord. We are continuing our effective working relationship with what we describe as the downwind states in the US, those that, along with Ontario, are feeling the impact of the long-range transport of acid rain on their environment.

11:40 a.m.

We are also making efforts to convert other states not immediately affected to the cause of acid rain reduction, as they come to appreciate that they too are suffering damage. We have intervened to press our case in court proceedings and consistently pressed our most die-hard opponents on the subject.

In Operation Shield we are marshalling our resources, gathering new evidence and setting an example in control of our own sources. The momentum from all this will redouble our efforts to get action from our neighbours to the south and to meet the challenge of acid rain control.

My ministry is also making a major investment in the water quality of beaches serving communities across Ontario. A \$9.7-million commitment was announced one month ago to improve Metropolitan Toronto beaches. I have pledged a further \$3.6 million in upfront grants for Ontario municipalities to use in upgrading sewage and storm water treatment systems. About nine Ontario communities outside Metro will benefit. I will be announcing further initiatives which will bring our total investment in Ontario beaches to about \$20 million.

In all these communities bathing beaches are important recreational facilities, both for their own residents and for the prosperity of their tourist industry. This funding will help to prevent the escape of untreated sewage and septic tank contamination and, in some areas, assist with plans for treatment of contaminated storm water to help these communities keep their beaches open and safe.

Our priority in all these initiatives is simple and straightforward: better service, better protection and a better environment for the people of Ontario. Mr. Knight: First, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker of this House. It is a well-deserved honour, one that your constituents in Perth can be proud of and one that we here are all proud of.

I am also proud to continue the tradition of Liberal representation in the riding of Halton-Burlington—a riding that has sent only Liberals to Queen's Park, a riding that will continue to send Liberals to Queen's Park and a riding that is delighted to be soon represented by a member of the government, a fact in which I am sure all my friends on this side of the House also take delight.

The riding of Halton-Burlington is a unique blend of urban and rural. The riding, located within Halton region, is composed of the communities of Halton Hills, Milton and Burlington, or at least the larger part of Burlington, being most of the area north of the Queen Elizabeth Way. Within these regional municipalities, we have the former rural townships of Nassagaweya, Esquesing, Nelson and Trafalgar.

The major centres in my riding are Acton, Georgetown, Milton and Burlington, the latter of which I jointly represent with the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) opposite. Each has its own special personality and events to capture and present that image to the rest of the province. Each community has its annual fall fair. Georgetown has its Highland Games each June and in early spring the Jaycees' annual crazy boat race on the Credit River.

Acton has preserved its leather town image with its Old Hide House, the largest market of its kind. Milton has an annual steam era display in September, as well as a superb winter carnival each February. Burlington has its Burlington Invitational Games with Burlington, Vermont; and is home of the world-renowned Burlington Team Tour Band. Each of our municipalities includes picturesque hamlets such as Glen Williams, Ballinafad, Campbellville, Brookville, Moffat, Kilbride, Hornby, Norval and Lowville, each with its own unique history and heritage and annual special event.

Halton-Burlington is home to many attractions which are utilized by visitors from across this province, this country and abroad. The Ontario Electric Railway Museum is located in Nassagaweya. In Milton we have all seen the Ontario Agricultural Museum as we drive along Highway 401. Milton is also home to Mohawk Raceway, Crawford Lake Indian village and the Glen Eden ski area operated by the Halton Regional Conservation Authority of Kelso.

Because the Niagara Escarpment transverses the riding, natural attractions abound: Mount Nemo, Rattlesnake Point, Crawford Lake, Kelso, Hilton Falls, the Glen and, of course, the Bruce Trail from which to view these sites.

Our recreational possibilities include downhill skiing at Glen Eden, cross-country skiing at Hilton Falls, sailing and swimming at Kelso, hiking the Bruce Trail or golfing at any of the many fine golf courses in the riding, such as Tyandaga in Burlington.

As I recall, the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) mentioned birdwatching in his riding. I suggest we also have birdwatching in our riding. We have a unique bird found along the escarpment, a turkey vulture, which has been adopted as the mascot or symbol of the the Halton Region Conservation Authority. I suggest that birdwatching is not unique to our ridings; I suspect in a few weeks we will be able to do some birdwatching here in the House as the vultures cross over to this side.

Halton-Burlington is more than fun and games. It is a unique blend of urban and rural residential mix. Situated on Highway 401 and the Queen Elizabeth Way and adjacent to the Hamilton and Toronto trading areas with close access to distant markets through our proximity to Lester B. Pearson International Airport, we have become home to an increasing number of industries. We have aggressive municipal business development programs and business organizations such as chambers of commerce working to attract industry to our available industrial lands in Halton Hills, Milton and Burlington.

Halton-Burlington has been one of the fastest growing areas in Ontario over the last 10 to 15 years. We have had a lot of fine people move here from all over the province. Over the next five to 10 years more substantial growth will occur in the Headon Forest area of Burlington and the proposed Milton Woods area. These people have moved to Halton-Burlington because they appreciate the kind of communities and the lifestyle of the people in our riding and they want to share in that lifestyle.

Unfortunately, for some years now a sense of frustration has been building among the people of Halton-Burlington. They have been dismayed and in many cases downright mad as this riding has been raped by successive Tory decisions to violate our beautiful countryside. Indeed, if we want to point to proof of a 42-year-old cynical attitude that shows indifference to the rights of all of us, we have only to look at my riding.

We have only to look at attempts to freeze land for the aggregate industry. We have only to look at Ontario Hydro's transmission lines and at the temptation to turn Halton-Burlington into the waste capital of Ontario, a temptation that could be rationalized only by suggesting we are at the centre of waste production and thereby presumably heavily weighting a decision in favour of minimum transportation costs, while ignoring the far greater consideration of quality of life and health.

Our riding was not even mentioned in the MacLaren report as a candidate site. It was 10 years ago that my predecessor, Mr. Reed, broke the Tory stranglehold on Halton, expressly because of a series of Tory decisions regarding land use. We had Niagara Escarpment, parkway belt and green belt. It was almost becoming the riding that the Tories belt, or should I say belted.

Mr. Reed in his maiden speech on December 18, 1975, stated: "Halton-Burlington, with its particular geographic situation, stands in the forefront of the change and evolution of this great province. As such, it is probably more sensitive to the policies of government than most other areas."

Because Halton-Burlington is more sensitive to government policies, it reacted more quickly than other areas in breaking the Tory strangle-hold. It has taken 10 years, but finally on May 2 the people all across this province voted to break the Tory stranglehold on Ontario. They voted for change; they voted for reform. They wanted to oust a government that had grown sluggish and complacent. They wanted to end the kinds of actions and attitudes that could only come from a government that felt it had a divine right to govern.

That kind of attitude has continued even subsequent to the election. Look at the throne speech; but do not believe it, not for a moment. Reference has been made by the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) to the fact that if he had made the throne speech promises during the campaign, he would have been a big winner in the election. That is just jealousy. He is jealous of the fact that he cannot pick up the marbles, but must just go home. He is jealous of the fact that others were able to better present to the people of Ontario those policies for reform and for a better future.

11:50 a.m.

The people of Ontario do not believe the throne speech. The only real things being given away in the throne speech are Tory principles. The people of Ontario are intelligent people. They will share my view that the throne speech

was simply a last arrogant act on the part of a past-tense government. Indeed, the throne speech should more correctly be called the pancake speech; it is the big flip that flopped.

The people of Ontario will take some hope from the throne speech. They will recognize that many of the promises were lifted from the Liberal Party platform. They know a Liberal government will not flip-flop from its election platform. Progressive measures of reform will be introduced in this House by a fresh team with a fresh approach, progressive measures of reform for which the people of this province expressed a desire on May 2.

I am proud to be able to serve in this House as these changes occur and I look forward to being a part of this period in the changing history of Ontario. I am looking forward to next Tuesday to help put the icing on the cake that the electorate baked on May 2.

Mr. Laughren: It is good to be back for a fifth consecutive term. I use the word "consecutive" so that my colleague the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner) will understand.

Mr. Kerrio: Did the member say this was his maiden speech?

Mr. Laughren: My maiden speech in this Parliament, yes.

I want to congratulate the new members of the assembly. I do so with more enthusiasm for some than for others, but they all deserve to be congratulated. The calibre of the throne debate speeches has been such that we are assured of having a very interesting parliament in the next couple of years.

I am much heartened by the return to this caucus of two not old friends but good friends: the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes) and the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere. It is very good to have them back in our midst.

If you have been listening during question period, Mr. Speaker, you will know that our new members are going to add a great deal to our caucus. I refer to the members for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier), for Essex North (Mr. Hayes), for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom), for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) and for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay). It is so good to have that person here from Timiskaming. I do not think I need to reinforce my remarks other than to say that even the members of the Conservative Party restrained their grief on election night when the New Democratic candidate was elected as member for Timiskaming.

There is also our new member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville), who has a very difficult act to follow. Those of us who knew Jim Renwick know of the contribution he made in this chamber. I will not dwell on it, but he was of enormous assistance to me personally over the years. I cannot tell how much I and others will miss his presence.

During the election campaign it was evident that something was happening that could lead to the defeat of the government, or the virtual defeat. I should be careful. The party did win more seats than any other. There was such a sense of change, a need for change, that it was inevitable the government would lose seats. What was not inevitable was that we would strike an accord with the Liberal Party.

There were three reasons for which I felt the need to support the Liberal rather than the Conservative caucus. I do not want to be mean about it. One was the need for change that was being felt in the electorate. Another was the argument that was being used, all across the province, I suspect. Certainly, it was used very heavily in my constituency by my Conservative opponent, who ran a decent campaign. It was the argument that one had to have a government member to get one's fair share.

I would ask members to think about the illogical extension of that argument. Surely if one riding has to get its fair share only by getting a government member, then the same argument applies to all ridings. Members opposite may want a one-party state in Ontario, but the electorate does not.

Mr. Jackson: We have a two-party system

Mr. Laughren: It is a lot better than one, infinitely better than one.

That was an anti-democratic appeal to the people of Ontario and they were not so stupid or so simple-minded as to have bought that argument all across the province. It backfired. The Premier himself used the argument in the last, desperate, dying stages of the campaign. Thank goodness the people of Ontario said, "We will not buy your anti-democratic claptrap." That is what they told the government of this province.

The third reason I found it inevitable that I would end up supporting the Liberal caucus and not the Conservative caucus was the line the Premier used. It bothered me more than I like to admit. I have been in politics since 1971 and I am used to having people do a job on me, almost always fairly. I am not complaining or whining

about it; I am used to taking some heat and I can live with it.

When I heard the Premier say that our party is the party of misery and hate, that bothered me more than I would have thought it would. If someone had asked me ahead of time whether it would bother me if that was said, I would have answered, "No, it would roll off me like water off a duck's back." It did bother me because of what it said about what he believes this party stands for.

I think fair-minded members on all sides would admit that this caucus has tried to fight over the years for the underdog in our society. We have tried to fight for redistribution of wealth and income in the province. We have tried to make things better for people who find themselves not in positions of power and influence. We have tried to do that, and one does not do that if one is a vehicle for misery and hate. That is why it was such an unfair accusation by the Premier. Once again, I suspect it was because he was feeling somewhat desperate.

For these three reasons I felt I had to support the idea of an accord with the Liberal Party so we could change the government in the province. Believe me—and I do not mind saying this right out—it is not because I have any great affection for the Liberal Party in Ontario. I have seen its positions over the years on matters dealing, for example, with labour and they bother me a great deal. We will be watching very carefully and we will not be restrained in debate or in our criticism when that party behaves in a way that simply is not fair.

I would do the same again. I believe we made the right decision. I do not think I would want to go back to my constituency if we had made another decision because there was a very strong feeling that it was time for change in this province.

One of the areas I want to speak briefly about today is an example of the government reaching a point where it set its own course and did not listen to what was happening out there. That is the whole question of the privatization of our provincial parks. We have an enormous investment in our 155 provincial parks. This year 18 of them are being contracted out to private contractors. I think that is fundamentally wrong. The government knew there was opposition to that but went ahead anyway.

Here is what the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) said back in 1976 when he was Minister of Natural Resources. This was before they created a job for him in Northern Affairs.

He said they were going to phase out overnight camping on the 21,000 sites the government operated in 122 provincial parks; the process would go into effect in 1979 and would take about 20 years to complete. He said they were planning an absolute farewell to campsites. He admitted they would not get out of them totally, but in the back of his head was the idea of getting completely out of public campgrounds in the provincial parks.

He said there were three reasons: (1) the campsites were losing money, (2) cutting them out would not only save operating expenses but also effect a reduction in civil service jobs and (3) it was part of an overall trend, a greater role for the private sector to play. That was what the Minister of Northern Affairs said back in 1978.

12 noon

If we can move ahead to 1985, the new Minister of Natural Resources is the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), who has stated that he has some concerns about this privatization. I am going to quote a speech he made on April 25, which was just before election day. He was speaking to the Northeastern Ontario Parks Association education seminar. He said:

"We are offering individuals the opportunity to operate a park while ensuring that our standards are maintained. We also believe it is a way to save money in the long run, because private operators often have more freedom to find ways to economize. We are not concentrating the operation of parks in order to reduce staff; rather, it is one way of better utilizing the staff we have. Our system is growing, and we need our staff elsewhere."

I would not want to accuse the minister of lying, or even of not telling the truth. However, when staff are laid off, they are not reassigned in the ministry; most of them become unemployed, so to use that kind of spurious reasoning simply is not appropriate.

The ministry knows it is not popular with the public; it did surveys and discovered it was not popular. It has virtually gone underground since 1978 to implement this policy. The way in which this program has been implemented in Ontario was underhanded and sneaky.

Back in 1978, the same year the Minister of Northern Affairs made his speech, there was an internal document that laid out the pros and cons of the privatization of our provincial parks. Let me tell members what the pros were as the government saw them. First, it reduces costs to the ministry. Would you not know that would be the first? Second, it produces opportunities for

the private sector, which is consistent with government strategy. Third, it could allow redirection or alternative use of ministry staff. Fourth, it could result in a reduction in work loads, such as staff training, hiring procedures, handling of cash, permits, etc.

Those were the pros of privatizing our provincial parks, which the people of Ontario paid for only to have them now turned over to the private sector after we have paid for them. That is not free enterprise; that is socialism for the private sector.

What were the cons in 1978 as the government saw them? "It reduces employment opportunities, especially for students." Is that not nice? They reduce employment opportunities for students and then have student employment programs in the summer.

"Short-term concessions or contracts provide no incentive for the operator to maintain the capital plant. Concessions and long-term leases result in loss of revenue to the government. All concepts reduce the ministry presence, a presence which has contributed over the years to a good ministry image.

"Operator does not have the legal authority of a superintendent to enforce the law. A successful operation is highly dependent upon the suitability of the operator, and the best operator will not always correspond to the most favourable tender.

"There could be some increases in administrative costs (tenders, agreements, audits, etc.). Since the only parks that are suitable for concession or long-term lease are generally profitable or near-profitable operations on their own, the system would eventually lose these, and the ratio between costs and revenues in the remainder of the system would suffer. Another way of looking at this is to say we lose parks that contribute revenue at lower costs. This is not the case, of course, with a contract operation."

That is exactly what has happened over the years as the ministry has contracted out some of these 18 parks. We can see the cons are about three times the pros, but the government went ahead because of its ideological straitjacket, particularly that of the then Minister of Natural Resources, now the Minister of Northern Affairs, and of the present Premier.

Let me give some examples of some of the jobs lost. Craigleith, six jobs gone, no one hired back; Sauble Falls, 13 staff, no one hired back; Silver Lake, 11 positions, no one hired back; Rideau River, some but not all hired back; Fitzroy, 17 positions, some of the older workers hired back

at lower rates of pay; Rainbow Falls, no one hired back out of 15 positions; and it goes on and on.

The point is, the government is quite prepared to reduce the number of jobs and at the same time to make announcements of job creation projects, which is absolute and total nonsense. The government is playing a silly, stupid game with people's lives. One person who had more than 20 years' seniority with the ministry ended up without a job.

Back in 1978 I raised this matter with the present Premier, who I guess at that point was the Minister of Natural Resources. I asked him whether one person could start cornering the market on all these privatized campgrounds. He said, and I quote from the May 3, 1978, Hansard:

"Up to date we have not even gone far enough to say. I am not thinking of a Kampgrounds of America chain under the Ministry of Natural Resources, if that is what you mean. What I am trying to do is re-establish and rekindle that pioneering spirit of free enterprise that lies dormant even in some of you to the left of me."

That is the real reason this government was privatizing our campgrounds, which we paid for. It is handing them out to the private sector for what it thinks is a quick buck. The government really is a bunch of quick-buck artists.

It is not even as though there are cost savings. Even though the government is contracting the parks out, it is still doing work in them. It is still spending money in those parks even though it has contracted them out. It spends time and money preparing the prospectus. It monitors the operator once he has it. There are legal costs. Also, it is still supplying material in some of the parks that have been contracted out. What kind of free enterprise is that? What a bloody joke this government is!

The government puts on a one-week enforcement course for the operators when they take over and provides the visitor services program for one year. I looked at the problem up at Sauble Falls and at Fitzroy. At Fitzroy the government put in new showers; previously there had been only two for 252 sites.

After the government contracts them out, it goes in and spends money. What kind of contracting out is that? The government buys things like tractors, lawnmowers, chemicals and toilet paper. It is really a joke.

If the government were really contracting them out, then it could rest on its ideological haunches and say: "That is what we are doing. We believe in getting out of the provincial parks business." But no, the government has to mix it up a bit; it has to contract it out and then subsidize them yet further after our enormous investment over the years in those parks.

I certainly hope the new government will take a serious look at that policy and stop this trend; it is really stupid. The government is not getting anything out of it. It is giving the best ones away and is left with the losers. I do not even like to call them losers, because I do not think provincial parks have to make money. That never was the intention of having provincial parks. The government never had the intention that provincial parks would break even at the park level. The government is always talking about tourism. One cannot measure the success of a park simply by the dollars at the gate. The parks make an enormous contribution to tourism in Ontario.

I looked at the way the government selects the operators. What are the selection criteria? Let me read from a document headed "Evaluation of Personal or Corporate Qualifications," which states:

"Each qualified tender will be evaluated on the following personal or corporate qualifications: experience in public relations; experience in the operation of a small business, preferably in the recreation or tourism field; experience in law enforcement; administrative experience and ability; supervisory experience; good character; esteem; and a minimum of three personal or business references, including one from a financial institution."

12:10 p.m.

Is there any mention about conservation? No. Is there any mention about knowledge of how to run parks or nature trails? There is nothing. It really is a joke.

Mr. Hayes: What if you run a hot dog stand?

Mr. Laughren: Yes; if you run a successful hot dog stand, you could get to run a provincial park. It is total nonsense; yet that is the policy those people were all so proud to get up and represent in the recent election campaign and are so proud to sit here and represent today. I wonder how much they are told. How many of them knew the pros and cons of contracting out those parks? Did they tell them? They did not tell them, did they? They are not told either. That is decided in the inner circle. Ask the member for York West (Mr. Leluk); he is here now.

It is not just an ideological question about giving away something we have invested in. The service has deteriorated since it happened. I wish the Minister of Natural Resources were here because I have pictures taken during the long weekend. They show an unbelievable mess with

sinks, toilet stalls and showers in a bloody mess. It stands to reason the private operator is going to minimize his costs. They are bottom-line people. Surely the government understands that. That is what they are doing and they wonder why they get complaints about our parks.

There are quite a few people lining up on the other side now and saying: "Hold on, you people. You are not giving away our heritage like that." Here is a quote I am sure the members will like:

"The so-called privatization of Ontario's provincial parks amounts to a despicable ripoff of citizens of Ontario in the name of free enterprise. These parks were established for and by, and at the expense of, all citizens of Ontario. They are intended to maintain recreational facilities and natural heritage regions for the benefit of all of us and for our children and our children's children. To turn them over to private commercial entrepreneurs to operate for their own profit is a betrayal to us all."

That statement is by Farley Mowat. I do not want President Reagan to hear about that slur on free enterprise and on the Conservative government of Ontario, but that is what Farley Mowat thinks of what these bandits are doing to our provincial parks.

Here is another quote those people should like: "MNR started turning on the parks back in 1976. That is when they initiated what I call the 'parks purge.' Since then, manpower cuts, transfer and cost cuts have been extensive. The system now is a little too lean. I think the parks have deteriorated because they have cut back so much on staff that they just cannot maintain the proper service. Since 1976, the ministry has looked at the parks as a kind of frill, but the park system more than pays for itself, but you do not see that because of the way we finance things."

That is by George Priddle, past president of the Ontario Provincial Parks Council. I could go on and on.

Here is a quote I like:

"The policy flies in the face of the whole notion of public parks. It is a very major step in the wrong direction. Apart from the park management issue, essentially what is happening is that the province is circumventing its own wage guidelines by allowing a private operator to come in and pay minimum wages and, presumably, on that basis turn a profit. Why is that a socially valuable goal?"

It is signed by Arlin Hackman, who was previously on the staff of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and was director of the Algonquin Wild Lands League.

I could go on and give a lot of other quotes, but my point is that it is not a popular policy. The government did a survey that showed the public did not want this done. That is why I called it sneaky and underhanded. They went ahead anyway because of the ideological straitjacket of the present Premier and because of the Minister of Natural Resources during the past couple of years.

I very much hope the government will reconsider. Actually, it is not too late for the minister to confess it was a wrongheaded, if not outright stupid, policy in the first place and to say he will reconsider it.

The ministry is already on the defensive. What did it do? The ministry got wind there were going to be some demonstrations at some of the parks; so it sent out a communications strategy to the provincial parks, telling them how to handle the demonstrations. There were things such as a letter that could be sent to managers of contracted parks to show support and handouts to be made available throughout all provincial parks, especially those that would be affected by demonstrations at their gates.

They went on to say, "Do not hand out fact sheets unless there is a demonstration." Why? Surely it is because they do not even want people to know they are doing it. I have never heard the minister stand up in this assembly and proudly trumpet what they are doing. They have never been bashful in bragging about what they do in other areas.

I wanted to make my feelings known about the privatization of parks.

I want to conclude by serving notice that there are a number of things I want to see done in the next two years in this parliament. In every case it is because of the failure of this government to act that there is such a desperate need for this.

There is the whole question of extended care beds being attached to small northern hospitals. In 1982, a telex was sent to these communities telling them that if they demonstrated a need and had a hospital, they would be eligible for extended care beds to be attached to the hospitals. Since that time the government has blatantly reneged on that promise. It used every silly excuse it could think of for not implementing it.

I can only assume the Minister of Northern Affairs has lost his clout in cabinet. I can only conclude that because he was on the line. He sent out the telex; he made the promise, and he reneged on the promise. That is not honest. He

used silly bureaucratic reasons to explain why it could not be implemented in the various places.

The people in my constituency, in Chapleau in particular, are fiercely determined, as I am, that we are going to get that extension of extended care beds to that hospital. The minister should not make firm promises, get all the publicity surrounding it and then simply break the promise.

I must mention that in the town of Chapleau, which has about 4,000 people, there is a part of the community that is on the other side of the tracks, so to speak, but in this case it is on the other side of the river, where the planing mills are. It is almost totally French-speaking. There are at least 1,000 people there, and the conditions are deplorable.

The government has a Ministry of Northern Affairs officer in that community. The role of a northern affairs officer is a co-ordinating one, to get the various ministries to work together to deliver programs. That has not happened in Chapleau and I want to know why. I want to know what that northern affairs officer has been doing since he arrived there. Is that not the purpose of the job? Is it just a hack job, a patronage job? If not, there has to be some

The government cannot allow people to live in those conditions, with those kinds of roads, while on the other side of the river all the streets are paved. It cannot be done. It is discriminatory, to start with.

The government has done nothing to resolve it. When the Conservative candidate in the election says, "I guess you have to have a government member to get those roads fixed," I am offended. I do not like using words such as fascist, but I want to tell the members-

Mr. Philip: Duplessisism is a good word.

Mr. Laughren: Duplessisism is the correct word, because that is what it leads to. Nothing makes me happier than the fact that the people of Ontario rejected that argument during this campaign.

There is also a road that links Highway 144 and Highway 129 that should be improved. I can assure the members I will be spending some time attempting to get that done.

The Ministry of Northern Affairs has to take a more active role, and not just a defensive role or a public relations role for the minister. That simply has to change. I have always tried very hard not to drag civil servants into political debates, but unless those northern affairs officers start acting in the interests of the people they are supposed to

be representing rather than the minister who appointed them, they are going to be dragged into public debate.

12:20 p.m.

Almost finally, part of the accord that was signed with the Liberal caucus was that there would be reform of our workers' compensation system. My constituency office is still preoccupied at least 75 per cent of the time, sometimes closer to 90 per cent, by workers' compensation problems.

I recognize that I represent a constituency that is based on mining and forestry. We have a lot of compensation problems; I understand that. But it is not appropriate that all the constituency offices, the unions, the legal aid clinics and others are preoccupied by problems that should be solved by the Workers' Compensation Board. It is a bad system. It needs major reform from the top down.

I know the compensation system quite well in Ontario. I have handled a lot of appeals over the years. In the long run, I do not expect this Liberal government to change this or do this. In the long run, we have to abolish that board and put into place a comprehensive insurance system that insures people regardless of where they are injured and regardless of fault. That is the only answer. Otherwise, we will have an adversary system, the worker having to prove that he or she was injured on the job and any deterioration as a result of that original injury and so forth.

There is no other solution; we simply have to do it. I do not expect this Liberal government to do it. It does not have an ideological bone in its body, so I do not expect it will do it. Can you imagine the new Premier challenging the insurance industry in London with such a program? Yes, I can just imagine that. That really would be living in a dream world.

The other thing is that part of our accord was that there would be an independent forestry audit. If there is one thing this province needs in a forest, it is an independent and honest audit, not the kind of information that has come out of the Ministry of Natural Resources in the last couple of years. When we did get information about two years ago and raised it in this assembly, raised it across the province, the then Minister of Natural Resources said, "You are not getting that information any more," just like that.

Talk about arrogance. Whose forests are they? Whose numbers are they? They were not the minister's. The people of Ontario own those forests and they simply give cutting rights to the industry. For him to do that was an act of arrogance beyond description, and that is why so many of us on this side are so happy to see those bandits over there kicked out.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: I welcome this opportunity to participate in the throne speech debate. I would like to join my colleagues in this House in congratulating you on your appointment, Mr. Speaker. No doubt you will be tested from time to time during the next few months by members on both sides of the House. Having come to know you during the past 14 years, I am confident you will rise to the occasion and that you will discharge your duties in a fair and evenhanded manner.

This government has long recognized the major role that the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture plays in promoting our province's diverse culture. I am proud of our commitment to protect cultural freedoms and the ideal of full, equal and responsible citizenship. We have been sensitive to community needs, and the responsive nature of our programming clearly reflects our commitment to consultation and excellence.

My ministry's overriding goal is to open the doors to full participation for all Ontarians in the social, economic, political and cultural life of the province. Equal participation requires a strong commitment to tolerance, compassion and cultural understanding from all members of our society. This government stands proud of its record in this regard.

Mr. Sargent: You are not proud of the job you did for our jails, though, are you?

Hon. Mr. Leluk: As a matter of fact, I can say to the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) that I am quite proud of my accomplishments as minister of that ministry for the past four years. I hope he will do as well when he is appointed Minister of Energy or whatever.

Since 1945, Ontario has welcomed some 2.7 million immigrants. Last year alone, 41,400 newcomers arrived in Ontario. That is 47 per cent of total Canadian immigration, according to the preliminary 1984 figures.

I know the confusion and uncertainty that accompany many of our new immigrants. My parents arrived in Canada from the Ukraine in the early 1900s. They were put on a train in Montreal and shipped out west where they settled in the foothills of Alberta. They had to adjust to a new land and a new way of life on their own; no one offered an official hand of welcome. They would be proud of our Welcome House program today.

In Ontario, we extend the hand of friendship to newcomers by providing settlement services in 39 languages. Last year, we expanded our Welcome House network from the downtown Toronto location to include storefront services in Mississauga, Scarborough and North York.

A mobile unit was also introduced to broaden access to guidance on government and social services. This expansion has been a tremendous success, largely due to the opening of the new facilities. The Welcome House network has recorded a huge increase in service volume. Client contacts numbered 54,000 in 1984-85, triple the previous year's total.

Immigration patterns are changing, with more newcomers making their homes outside Metro Toronto and Mississauga. To move with this trend, the ministry is now establishing a fifth Welcome House in Hamilton. Multilingual staff there will offer advice and referral information on social services, health care, employment and English-as-a-second-language classes. Our clients in Hamilton will receive the same caring support that radiates from the Toronto Welcome House locations.

We will also launch a second mobile unit to travel to communities in southwestern, eastern and northern Ontario, expanding and improving immigrant information and counselling services in communities across the province.

In a major initiative, the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture is reinforcing its support for community organizations that provide direct services to assist newcomers as well as some of our long-term immigrants. We are increasing the budget for our multicultural services program grants by \$1 million to an annual total of \$2.3 million, which will allow us to enrich funding for some cultural groups and welcome more organizations into the program.

These volunteer organizations make an invaluable contribution to helping immigrants get settled and acclimatized to Canadian life. They also foster positive intergroup relations and help immigrants build bridges to the larger society.

In 1984-85, 58 multicultural service organizations in 20 communities received funding, including the Council of French Organizations of Metropolitan Toronto, Centre Francophone, the Cross Cultural Learner Centre in London, the Thunder Bay Multicultural Association and the Ottawa Carleton Immigrant Services Organization.

Our multicultural service program grants represent a direct response to the mounting pressures these community-based groups are encountering in a period of social and economic change. A high priority for these organizations is

aiding immigrant women who face more difficult barriers than do their male counterparts and require extra support.

The assurance of ongoing funding will provide a solid financial base for these groups to plan ahead on a long-term basis so they can meet

growing community needs.

To help immigrants overcome language barriers, the ministry is strengthening its language training program. The downtown Welcome House operates an English-language school on site, together with a unique multicultural day care centre for children whose parents are enrolled in the course.

12:30 p.m.

We also dedicate more than \$1 million a year to language classes run by local agencies, boards of education and community colleges. We support 300 community programs which reach 11,000 learners a year, 70 per cent of whom are women.

The ministry is broadening the concept of English in the work place to include all aspects of communication with the multicultural work force. Cultural attitudes in our pluralistic society vary widely on everything from handling a job interview to raising children. To communicate effectively with workers from diverse backgrounds, employers must acquire a sensitivity to these differing outlooks. Our new approach to English in the work place complements language classes with training and cross-cultural communications.

This year the ministry will introduce a new \$500,000 incentive grant program to help community organizations undertake English-in-thework-place programs. Boards of education, community colleges, labour unions, employer organizations and universities across this province will be participating. Our objectives are to build a network of deliverers of English in the work place across the province, to market the new concept of EWP widely and to develop case studies, models and techniques and materials that will be of benefit to the EWP community.

While culture and the arts are clearly an essential and integral part of our lives, it should also be recognized that they are the catalysts of a dynamic economic enterprise. Culture is a growing source of income and employment in our emerging service and information economy. According to the Canada Council, employment in the arts industry nationwide in 1981 surpassed the level in any of the 20 major manufacturing industries. Ontario counts for about 42 per cent of all arts-related jobs in Canada.

The rate of job creation in the cultural field has been extraordinary. Between 1971 and 1981, Canadian arts-industry employment increased 58 per cent, outstripping the 39 per cent labour force expansion in the economy as a whole. Culture definitely represents a major economic development opportunity.

At a meeting last December, my predecessor and her federal counterpart agreed that the cultural sector should be a priority under the federal-provincial economic and regional development agreement. I am delighted the two levels of government are now negotiating a cultural subagreement that will provide for joint federal-provincial programs in this key economic sector.

Ontario's future economic prospects depend heavily on growing international trade. We cannot afford to overlook the strong export potential of our cultural activities. Cultural happenings represent powerful magnets for tourist dollars and our cultural products are making steady gains in foreign markets.

To boost tourism, for the second consecutive year the ministry will support a series of US radio broadcasts by the Canadian Opera Company. The six COC productions to be aired on a national radio syndicate will include intermission features on Ontario cultural events and attractions. The programs will expose an estimated 10 million to 15 million American opera lovers to Ontario's menu of cultural delights.

Ontario's cultural institutions are world leaders in developing expertise and technology in museology, science education and exhibit design. The Ontario Science Centre, for example, has scored international coups with its sales of science exhibits to Japan, China, Kuwait and France. New markets are opening up in the Middle East, Europe and southeast Asia. TVOntario markets programs into the United States through its Dallas office. It is now penetrating the Middle East.

The Royal Botanical Gardens has developed the concept of amenity plantings and is selling plants to Britain.

Mr. Sargent: Time.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: It is Miller time.

Building on these successes, the ministry will work with its agencies and the Ontario International Corp. to orchestrate a major cultural marketing campaign over the next four years. This \$4.5-million program will package and market Ontario cultural products and knowhow for sale to foreign educational and cultural institutions.

Through international cultural exchange, Ontario's artists gain the opportunity to broaden their creative experience and earn well-deserved prestige. The economic spinoffs also are significant since cultural relations can pave the way for trade, commerce and investment.

Time does not permit me to give a complete accounting of my ministry's agenda as I know other members of this assembly would like to participate in the debate on the speech from the throne, but let me say that we have an abiding commitment in this province to both citizenship and culture. We recognize that the arts are a crucial part of the quality of our economic and social life. We are dedicated to a society based on equality, access, cultural sharing and a common faith in the future.

It has been my privilege to serve as Minister of Citizenship and Culture for only a few weeks, but in reviewing the ministry's record over its three years of existence, I am struck by how much has been accomplished to turn these principles into action. The ministry has designed imaginative and innovative programs to guarantee access to the richness of Ontario life for all our citizens. It has fostered broad participation and the highest standards of excellence in creative behaviours and endeavours.

Mr. Grande: What is creative behaviour?

Hon. Mr. Leluk: It certainly is not the member's.

In all our programs we have formed close working relationships and strong, effective partnerships with community and volunteer organizations across the province. We have strengthened the community base through programs which use to a maximum the volunteer contribution and build self-reliance in local organizations. This ministry has advanced the cause of women, improved French-language services, encouraged training and skills development, fostered adaptation to the computer age, created employment for young people and promoted economic growth.

Mr. Grande: That is not your ministry now. Come on.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: It certainly is.

Our initiatives to foster culture and citizenship have been the right thing to do and have been done for the right reasons. The commitment to the arts and cultural life, the goal of full and equal citizenship—such great principles as these—outlive any single minister or any government.

As a special committee for the arts observed, the real strength behind the artist is not grants or donations but the public realization that the arts are fundamental to society. The same could be said of multiculturalism. It is the public commitment to cultural freedom and common citizenship that makes Ontario's diverse society a model for the world.

I am proud of my ministry's efforts to attain these goals for they represent values that make our province a better place in which to live.

12:40 p.m.

Ms. Munro: Mr. Speaker, may I congratulate you on your new role. Congratulations, also, to my colleague the member for Carleton East (Mr. Morin), who was recently appointed Chairman of the committees of the whole House.

It is with a good deal of pleasure and a sense of responsibility that I address this House as the Liberal representative for Hamilton Centre. I thank the voters for their confidence. The major issue in Hamilton Centre is jobs and the reality of destructive unemployment, particularly as it relates to our youth, women, the disabled and to our obsolete and laid-off workers. No one walks unscathed or without fear for himself, his family or his community.

Equally serious concerns are expressed in the areas of education, training and human resource development. The relationship between education and the world of work can be taken as one of the single most challenging issues to be faced both in the short and long term if we are concerned about the socioeconomic viability in this province.

High voter interest, coupled with a cynicism regarding the ability of a too-long-entrenched, leaderless Conservative government combined as a positive and demanding call for change. The people of this province opted for change, for viable alternatives, for platforms with measurable, concrete actions, visionary and pragmatic but perceptively appropriate to the reality of our times.

The strong movement for change evidenced on May 2 did not surprise those of us who have been pushing for change and, in fact, who entered or remained in politics to fight for it. We have been living in a province too long governed by those more concerned with having a triple-A rating on Wall Street than providing the necessary incentives to small business, or providing adequate retraining for the unemployed, or providing needs-responsive job programs for youth or adopting equity in employment. This government has for too long ignored problems of pollution and the necessity of a comprehensive, meaningful industrial strategy.

The voting public and those of us on this side of the House are fed up with seeing cutbacks in essential programs and services under the guise of good management and controlled provincial deficits. Many of us do not hesitate to support controlled deficit funding if it means providing the necessary budget to improve opportunities for working persons in this province, if it means an investment in visionary programs leading to a more secure and enriched way of life.

There is no change, no revolution without a cost and without a transition, but the socioeconomic revolution which is so clearly before us now is costly only in the necessary structure and budgets needed to fuel, develop and phase in programs critically needed by the people of this province. Such investment will be returned many times over. The transition will require dedication, commitment, accountability and a sensitivity to the input of the citizenry.

Very shortly, when the government changes hands, those who have been asked to govern can and will. In my view, the motions of no confidence put forward by our leader, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), and by the New Democratic Party leader, the member for York South (Mr. Rae), are more than justified.

In order not to delay unduly the unfolding of events, I will focus specifically on two issues important in Hamilton Centre, namely, education and training, and equity for women. I will not focus on the throne speech itself since I have a great deal of difficulty relating it to the 42-year Tory government record and to the Tory platform during the recent campaign.

Hamilton Centre is an industrial, steel-manufacturing riding. It is working class, strongly multicultural and proud of its church affiliations. Hamilton Centre is reeling from the lack of a comprehensive industrial strategy. I know this when I take a look at the nature of constituency cases in the riding. We have job seekers, the unemployed and those seeking appropriate Workers' Compensation Board hearings. We have youth and adults seeking admission to college and to university. We have union representatives, and I would like to dwell on this for a moment.

I was visited recently by the Hamilton-Brantford Ontario Building and Construction Trades Council, which brought home to me with clarity that the unemployment rate for pipefitters, plumbers, electricians and general labourers in this region ranges between 50 and 75 per cent. The workers are now taking one, two and three

days' employment a week and trying to support families on that.

In addition, Local 206 of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union was in to visit me, trying to get the government and Canadian Medical Laboratories to move since the workers have been without a contract since 1982. Workers at Canadian Porcelain Co. Ltd. are appealing for government intervention so that they can make valid and realistic their offer to purchase the plant and to enter into a true worker co-operative.

Some of the effects of a lack of a comprehensive industrial strategy being felt in Hamilton include the following: an insensitive disregard of public participation in decisions that affect the lives of the electorate, including the hearings on GO advanced light rail transit, the east-west expressway, the bayfront properties currently known as Lax, halfway houses, industrial buffer zones and the Bovey commission.

The educational system is being reduced to a number of independent levels. The stranglehold on funding at all three levels places Ontario near the bottom of the list of provinces in per capita expenditure, to say nothing of the potential reduction and destruction of programs, reduced accessibility and proposed higher fees. In those post-secondary institutions where first-time and returning students graduate from education and skills programs, they often have to endure increasingly longer periods of time before they are placed in the work force, many in slots that match neither their expectations nor their level of competence.

Technological change is reducing the size of the work force in our major industries and no comprehensive government strategy exists for adequate monitoring or retraining, let alone a strategy to bring in new industry to create a diversified job market. The absence of a small business strategy geared to the needs of this important sector has had a continuing toll of financial losses, bankruptcy and work uncertainty.

At a time when worker initiatives and rights should be supported, they are being rejected or ignored. With unemployment rates escalating or clearly unmanageable, the social disruption created imposes a heavy load on medical services and social agencies and our sense of independence and wellbeing. In a period when many of these support services are needed more than ever, the government of yesterday proposes to reduce or eliminate them.

How does this Hamilton experience relate to provincial concerns in education and training and how does it touch women in the world of work? With respect to education and training, at the forefront is the necessity for immediate implementation of separate school funding in September. There is no reason open public participation could not have started last week as needed input for guidelines on policy, process and procedures relating to such funding. We must be, and we are, concerned about job security, accessibility, quality programming, time lines and models. We must, however, be just as concerned for the student.

Technical training must be retained in the secondary school system, technical training linked with the world of work, complete with career counselling and supported by business, labour and industry. We must provide more options for youth. No student should carry with him or her the stigma of failure when the appropriate alternatives to academic education are not available.

It is not unreasonable to expect that a technical skills certificate after grade 10 could be made available that would be accepted by business, industry and labour and by the college system when that young adolescent chooses to re-enter to build on his skills block. Career counselling is sadly lacking during the period in which a young person attends secondary school; career awareness and program counselling equally so. We must provide money for the upgrading of instructors and counsellors. We must provide this necessary service which is so essential to the appropriate placement of a student in the world of work.

In the college system we need expanded seed money in those programs developed jointly with the provincial and federal governments and we need to establish improved links with business and labour and industry. Work experience, apprenticeships, universal skills and placement opportunities for professional and technical development are long-standing commitments to that educational level.

At the university level there is serious underfunding. No response has yet been made to the universities from the government re the Bovey recommendations. The Council of Universities of Ontario has thus far declined to present funding requirements for 1986-87, stating that the province does not support its universities on a level comparable to that of the rest of Canada and that the province does not accord universities the priority they deserve.

12:50 p.m.

Continuing education and the part-time learner are still viewed as a second-class endeavour in this province. It must be seen as an integral part of the link between education and the world of work if we are to progress as a province in socioeconomic terms. Lifelong learning and earning must become a reality, accessible for all and it must be funded.

We have identified the problem of literacy, and yet this government provides only guidelines and little in the way of funds for basic literacy training, life skills, English as a second language and high-technology literacy such as computer awareness.

Let us take a look for the next eight or nine minutes at women in the world of work. The overall unemployment rate in March 1981 in Ontario was 7.5 per cent. In February 1985 it was 9.4 per cent. The 1981 unemployment rate in Hamilton Centre was approximately nine per cent. It approaches 11 per cent now. The highest concentration of unemployment is in the 15-to-24-year-old age group. Within that, female unemployment is highest, as it is in the 25-year-plus group.

Women's participation rate in Hamilton in 1981 was 50.7 per cent, compared to a 77.5 per cent participation rate for men. The Hamilton Centre participation rate for females in 1981 was also lower than males. In the 15-to-24-year-old group, it was 60.8 per cent compared to 71.3 per cent and in the 25-year-plus group, 44.2 per cent compared to 75.7 per cent. Of married women, 43.8 per cent in Hamilton Centre were very active in the labour force.

The average employment income for women in 1981 in Hamilton was \$8,246. Women's average employment income as a percentage of men's was 49.1 per cent. Women are generally underrepresented in our riding in the executive management slots, in professions related to natural and social sciences and in nontraditional occupations such as machining. They are overwhelmingly represented in clerical, accounting and supervision, 61.8 per cent, which is often poorly paid, ghettoized work.

We have a long way to go in seeking equity for women. Women work for a variety of reasons, many as sole supporters of a family or to share economic responsibilities. Of lone family supporters in Hamilton, 68 per cent are women. Women are often caught in a chronic poverty syndrome. Single-parent women who work or want to and need social-assistance housing find themselves on waiting lists. Hamilton had 5,000

units available in 1984, and in the years between 1980 and 1984, there were 2.5 times as many lone-parent females on those waiting lists as there were males.

A single mother with two children, eight and 13 years old, measured against adequacy lines of Statistics Canada and paying \$356 monthly rent for an apartment, should have an income of \$16,345. In fact, on family benefits she would receive \$10,337. It is often the case that welfare penalizes female initiative, i.e., if one is on mother's allowance and earns more than \$100, it is taxed back.

One will not find a waiting list for day care services in Hamilton because the eligibility guidelines are too tough. If they changed to match the needs of women, there would be longer lists. One chronic need for women seeking re-entry into the world of work or seeking to improve themselves through education and training is the need for good-quality day care.

There is also a need for affordable child care and quality day care with experienced early child care givers. Here is a paradox, Mr. Speaker: It should be noted that it is usually a woman who takes the required early childhood education certificate. She is often married with dependants and she is likely to end up in one of the poorest-paid occupational slots with an average wage of \$10,000. Fair wages, indeed.

Given home responsibilities and/or educational upgrading, women often are those most likely to seek part-time work or shared work. At present such women are not receiving fair wages or fringe benefits. It is suggested that much could be done to improve government policy in this important area of labour legislation.

Women are often paid less than men for jobs of equal classification or value. It is, therefore, important that this government follow the directions of the Abella report, which has made extensive recommendations, not only on the issue of equal pay for work of equal value but on systemic discrimination in the work force.

On the low-tech side there would be optimistic options for women if education and training moneys were available in the field of microapplications. Since traditional secretarial, microcomputer and clerical occupations provide those skills that will transfer to some of these advanced programming-analyst skill slots, women should be given first options for such training. Unfortunately, the seating arrangement through the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission is often backed up and classes are filled, a

stunning paradox again when one is reminded that the Canadian Federation of Independent Business recently reported a need for competent workers in the whole area of microcomputers and word processing.

Many of the workers in the public service are women: mental retardation workers, supply teachers, child care workers and nursing assistants, many of whom work for unequal salaries and in unequal working conditions.

It is interesting to note also that in the case of Canadian Medical Laboratories and Local 206 of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, which has been without a contract since July 1, 1982, an issue raised this week by the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), all but one of the lab technicians are women making an average wage of \$6 an hour, compared with lab technicians at other hospital facilities, who receive an average starting wage in the range of \$7.20 to \$16 an hour.

Safety and health concerns involve women and technology, i.e., the effect of video display terminals on unborn foetuses, back injuries. Women have much to fear in new technology shifts, especially if they are women re-entering traditional occupations. Training programs geared to new technology must be considered, and the terms and conditions of employment should reflect high-tech threats.

Many of the new locals seeking first contract compliance are composed of women: T. Eaton, banks and trust companies. We must guarantee those rights in labour legislation.

Women working in the private sector should be guaranteed the pension coverage they all need.

For all those reasons we should take a firm approach to the needs of women in this next government.

To close, in Hamilton Centre there was a profound dismay over provincial issues during the by-election and this general election. Yet there was also a desire to work to get things moving again, to demand accountability and fair representation at Queen's Park, to remove the Tory grip and to bring government back to the people. It appears that Hamilton Centre was not alone. Let us get on with the job.

Mr. Foulds: I have a four- or five-part speech, so I might as well use the three minutes left to me this afternoon to give a few opening remarks.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: Why? Just give it while you have the floor.

Mr. Foulds: Is the member not glad he has the ability to heckle? Once again, we have unleashed the seals on the other side of the hall.

I am rising to vote against the present Conservative government for a number of reasons. First, the Conservative government of this province has not kept faith with either its ideals or the ideals of the people of this province. Second, the Conservative government of this province has lost the confidence not merely of this House, but also of the people of the province. Third, and more important, the Conservative government of this province has lost its own confidence. It no longer knows how to rule or govern.

I operate on a twofold philosophy—no pun intended. First, I believe in that old biblical saying, "By their actions ye shall know them." The speech from the throne is meaningless.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: "Fruits."

Mr. Foulds: Does the member want to give me the verse and so on?

It was easy to make a confession in the speech from the throne. It was easy to say, "These are the things we will do with government" when they were relieved of responsibility. But I ask them, where have they been for the last 42 years? Where have they been even for the last 15 years? Why were they unable, even after the resounding defeat they experienced on May 2, to proclaim the spills bill, which had been passed by the Legislature under a minority government back in 1979?

On motion by Mr. Foulds, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 1, p.m.

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No. 10

Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 33rd Parliament Monday, June 17, 1985

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, June 17, 1985

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' EXPENDITURES

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that I have today laid upon the table the individual members' expenditures for the fiscal year 1984-85.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS REDISTRIBUTION

Mr. Speaker: I would like to inform the members that this is the last day for them to file complaints with the Clerk respecting the redistribution report.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

WORKERS' COMPENSATION LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Elgie: On December 14 last year, Bill 101, containing this government's proposed reforms of the Ontario workers' compensation system, received royal assent. Throughout the debate on the bill, my predecessor Russell Ramsay emphasized that the legislative amendments in question represented the first step in a two-stage approach to reform.

The issues to be addressed in phase 2 include the means of setting and adjusting the level of permanent disability pensions, the question of re-employment or reinstatement rights for injured workers and the issue of experience rating. Last week's speech from the throne reaffirmed the government's intention to pursue phase 2 as expeditiously as possible.

Those sections of Bill 101 dealing with benefits and related matters were proclaimed on April 1. The remaining sections of the bill, concerned in the main with procedural and administrative matters, were left to be proclaimed at a later date. My purpose in making this statement today is to report to the House on the progress made so far in regard to their implementation and to confirm October 1 as the date on which all outstanding provisions of the act will come into force.

As members will appreciate, in order to give effect to the many administrative and process

improvements contained in the bill, extensive preparatory work has been required: making the necessary arrangements for funding, housing, staffing and more clearly defining the roles and procedures of the various new bodies created. To achieve this, a steering committee has been established under the chairmanship of the Deputy Minister of Labour, and I should like to provide members with a brief progress report on implementation.

Perhaps the key structural reform in Bill 101 is the creation of a new independent appeals tribunal. The steering committee recognized that the chairman required to head up the new tribunal must possess the appropriate blend of expertise and experience in adjudicative and appeal matters as well as the necessary degree of personal acceptance by the parties involved in the process.

It was realized that locating and securing the right candidate would not be an easy task. In the circumstances, I believe we have been exceptionally fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Ron Ellis, QC, as chairman of the new appeals tribunal commencing October 1 of this year.

Mr. Ellis has an extensive background in legal practice. In 1975 he was appointed to the faculty of Osgoode Hall Law School and during his time there he served as director of Parkdale Community Legal Services. More recently, he has been director of the bar admission course and director of education for the Law Society of Upper Canada. The experience Mr. Ellis brings to his new position, allied with his fine personal qualities, makes him an ideal choice and I feel confident the new tribunal will be in very capable hands.

The tripartite nature of the tribunal and the vital function it serves make it essential that the views of labour and management organizations be canvassed as to candidates to represent their interests on the new body. The selection process is already under way and in the weeks ahead consultation will take place with employer and worker organizations. Similar procedures will also be followed in regard to the other new bodies that must be staffed.

The steering committee has also considered the role of the medical assessors to be attached in an advisory capacity to the new independent appeals tribunal. Bill 101 makes specific provision for a consultation process to be observed in the selection of the medical practitioners appointed to a roster from which persons will be drawn to provide expert, independent advice to the appeals tribunal on medical issues that may be in dispute.

I would now like to turn to the second very important aspect of Bill 101 and its reforms, involving the offices of the worker and employer advisers. Both will report to the Minister of Labour and will provide assistance and guidance to their respective constituencies in regard both to claims and appeals issues.

The process of consultation with interested groups in both the worker and employer communities has already begun and some useful suggestions have been received. Those consultations will continue with a view to realizing and finalizing arrangements for both offices prior to October 1.

The steering committee has given considerable thought to the question of what constitutes the most appropriate operating mode for both groups, so as to ensure maximum effectiveness and responsiveness to the needs of clients. Issues that must be addressed include the expected case load, anticipated staffing needs and the best means of providing access to services across the province.

In the last regard, consideration is being given to decentralizing the location of the advisers. periodic circuit travel by the advisers to the centres of greatest demand, the provision of direct toll-free telephone access to facilitate initial contact with the central advisers' offices, and the provision of early assistance through existing government field offices.

The third aspect of Bill 101 I wish to address today concerns the Industrial Disease Standards Panel. Members will recollect that the purpose of this new body will be to investigate possible industrial diseases, to make findings as to possible connections between those diseases and industrial materials or processes, to develop criteria for evaluating industrial disease claims, and to advise the Workers' Compensation Board on eligibility rules regarding compensation of such claims.

Here again, the steering committee has been grappling with some of the key issues, which include the appropriate composition of the panel, the qualifications and qualities required of the chairman of the panel, the most suitable method of monitoring specialized research work and of commissioning original studies to pursue new issues or to compensate for gaps in existing research work, the process of priority setting and the relative balance between the initiation of studies by the panel itself and acting on issues referred to it, and the nature of the linkages with the ministry's activities in the health and safety field and with the existing Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Occupational Safety.

Finally, I would like to refer to the procedures being followed in the selection of directors for the WCB corporate board. I need hardly remind members of the crucial policy-making role to be played by this body. Bill 101 defines the basic configuration of the board in terms of size of membership, composition and so on. A majority of the directors are to be part-time, representative of employers, workers, professional persons and the public.

2:10 p.m.

The complexity of the corporate board's role and its centrality to the decision-making process require the selection of a body of directors of the very highest standard. Various organizations have already submitted nominations and these are being considered. The government is fully committed to pursuing a process of consultation designed to yield the best-quality candidates available to fulfil the important duties and responsibilities associated with this function.

I am pleased with the progress made to date in giving substance to the organizational design contemplated by Bill 101 and I am confident that all parties involved in and affected by the workers' compensation system will be well served by the new bodies that are being created.

On October 1, when the remaining provisions of Bill 101 come into force, I sincerely believe this province will be in the forefront of workers' compensation reform with an adjudication system second to none on this continent. Taken together, the measures contained in the bill represent a major achievement, probably the most significant improvement in the act in its 70-year history.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: The public general hospitals in our province are without question the linchpin of the Ontario health care system. Since the beginning of publicly funded health care, this government's financial commitment to the hospitals has reflected the pivotal role they play in the provision of health care services to the Ontario people. The result has been that, together with the co-operation and support of the hospital

sector, we have built up a health care system in Ontario that is regarded as being among the finest in the world.

Earlier this year it was announced that Ontario hospitals would receive an annual increase of 6.7 per cent in provincial grants for fiscal year 1985-86. This increase would bring total provincial spending on hospital operations for the next fiscal year to a record \$4.2 billion.

Following extensive consultation with representatives of the Ontario Hospital Association, I am announcing today we have secured agreement that the funding allocation for Ontario hospitals is to be revised upwards.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: The members opposite should be delighted.

The revised funding allocation reflects a general economic increase of 3.9 per cent to cover hospital costs during the fiscal year. It also includes the additional funding that will be made available to individual hospitals for new ministry-approved programs, for costs associated with the growth of life support programs such as renal dialysis and cardiovascular surgery, and for work load increases resulting from the larger number of patients being treated.

This will result in an overall increase of 7.7 per cent in hospital funding for fiscal year 1985-86. This increase reflects the government's commitment to and confidence in the hospital sector of Ontario. Details on the new funding allocation will be sent to hospitals within the next few days.

HEPATITIS VACCINE

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: In response to certain reports that several Toronto schoolchildren had been identified as carriers of hepatitis-B, I wish to inform the members of the House about the use of hepatitis-B vaccine in our province and the policies of my ministry.

First, I wish to point out that some recent media stories concluded that children who were in contact with hepatitis-B carriers were in the high-risk category. That is not true. For example, we know that as many as one per cent of the general population are carriers of hepatitis-B. The American immunization practices committee said earlier this month that persons in casual contact with carriers are at a minimal risk and vaccine is not routinely recommended for them.

Late in 1982, when hepatitis-B vaccine was thought to be in short supply, the ministry bought the entire Ontario allocation of 30,000 doses to ensure the immunization of individuals at high risk. An advisory group was also formed to

identify and recommend the groups to whom the vaccine should be offered. The ministry subsequently decided to make the vaccine available to patients with blood diseases, provincial lab workers, high-risk health care workers and students, and staff and residents in homes for the developmentally handicapped.

Guidelines for the use of hepatitis-B vaccine were distributed to hospitals in January 1983. The guidelines state that inpatients must not be charged for the vaccine they receive, while outpatients and employees may be charged the cost of the vaccine at the discretion of the hospital.

Newborn babies of carrier mothers are another high-risk group. It has been the practice in Ontario hospitals that these newborn babies receive the first of the three required shots while in hospital. I am announcing today that all Ontario hospitals will now be required to identify these infants to their local public health unit. The public health unit will then take every necessary step to ensure that the second and third vaccine shots are administered without charge.

I am also announcing that part-time employees of hospitals are to be given the same options as full-time employees with regard to receiving the vaccine.

Finally, I have instructed ministry staff to review the situation among other high-risk groups in the province and to bring forward recommendations about making the vaccine available to them.

Protecting the health of the people of this province is a number one priority of the ministry. It is because of that mandate that today I am announcing these new initiatives relating to the availability and administration of hepatitis-B vaccine.

CROP DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: I would like to bring to the attention of this House a series of initiatives in the major fruit, vegetable and livestock sectors of the agriculture industry in Ontario. These are in keeping with this government's commitment to offer broadly based support to this vital segment of our economy.

I am bringing these incentives before the honourable members at this time because they have all just cleared the necessary funding approval. While some have already been announced in principle and all of them have received the approval of the Management Board of Cabinet, each of them fills a specific need. Despite all the strengths of agriculture in

Ontario, there are areas needing long-term support. Some areas require new approaches;

others merely require changes.

We see in the fruit and vegetable sectors, for example, an industry in transition. There are a number of crops not now grown in the province that we feel could be produced here successfully and profitably with proper research and development. There are also some crops that are now grown in small quantities or in specific areas that we believe could be developed in other areas.

To accomplish this, I am announcing the commercial crop development program, which will now begin to help Ontario farm businesses and organizations as well as the research community to develop new or alternative crops in

various areas of the province.

Up to \$2 million during a three-to-four-year period will be made available for the production, processing or marketing of crops that are not usually grown here but have commercial potential. I emphasize, however, that this program is designed to involve both the private and the public sectors, thus making maximum use of available resources. I regard this program as an incentive to help all those who are willing to commit some of their own resources to move into new areas of production.

A second initiative in crop development I am announcing today is a five-year, \$500,000 renewal of the clingstone peach tree-planting assistance program. We are extending the program to encourage growers and nurseries to produce more fruit and trees for processing.

There is no doubt the demand for processed peaches is there. If Ontario does not produce enough, our consumers will be forced to buy imported fruit. As well, our processers are expanding their facilities to handle increased production. Therefore, it is important to the economy of the province that the government do what it responsibly can to help reach that goal.

2:20 p.m.

In 1981 the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development approved a five-year, \$1.5-million, tree-planting assistance program in tender fruit for processing, to increase production of clingstone peaches and Bartlett pears. The clingstone peach tree-planting component was extended for one year last year. Now the revised program will run to 1992 and will, I hope, increase clingstone peach production by as much as 30 per cent.

For another sector of the processing industries, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has approved a \$65,800 grant in assistance to the

Armstrong Produce Co. Ltd., of Leamington. The financing comes from the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, under the Ontario storage and packaging assistance program, and is being given to this Essex county grower and packer to install packaging equipment for new baby carrots and beets.

Our grant represents only 21 per cent of the total cost of the capital project. This investment offers many potential benefits, including increased employment, more trade with neighbouring states and a new market for local growers facing declining profits from onion and tobacco crops.

Baby carrots also have been identified by the ministry as a priority import replacement commodity, so this initiative should help to expand the local economy as well.

RED MEAT PLAN

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: In addition, I am announcing revisions to the red meat development program to increase participation of producers. The development program of the red meat plan was introduced last year to address the productivity problem of the livestock industry and to help to create an efficient and more cost-competitive sector.

The enhanced stocker-slaughter cattle program now provides \$5 per head for weighing cattle, an increase of \$2 per weight. The program was simplified to provide an annual maximum grant of \$750, and now requires only two weights to qualify, one at arrival and one performance check.

In addition, stocker-slaughter cattle producers now qualify for grants up to \$2,500 for livestock and feed scales. Similarly, weighing grants under the sheep flock improvement program have been increased to \$3 per head, an increase of \$2 per weight. This change will strengthen local sheep clubs and provide more of an incentive for supervised weighing of sheep.

While I am on the subject of livestock, I must express to the House my concern and surprise over the recent United States Commerce Department decision about Canadian pork producers being subsidized by federal and provincial governments. If we are unable to have this decision overturned by the US International Trade Commission, revised countervailing duties could be enforced, causing intolerable financial hardship for many Ontario producers.

My ministry is now preparing material to support presentations of the Canadian Meat Council and the Canadian Pork Council. These industry groups will present their positions at a public hearing of the commission on June 25. This is the body which rules on whether an American industry can be injured by Canadian imports.

It is our hope that our efforts will represent pathways of opportunities for all those people in the livestock, fruit and vegetable sectors of Ontario agriculture. I feel confident that each of our initiatives makes sound economic sense and will contribute to the overall prosperity of the agriculture and food industry.

GRAIN FINANCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: I have another very brief statement—in fact, two of them if the second one gets here in time. This is a statement regarding the R. B. McKinlay grain situation.

I would like to announce that the government will provide \$1.4 million to cover the losses of grain and soybean growers who had basis contracts with R. B. McKinlay and Sons Ltd.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: We need the minister's kind of leadership.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The opposition should have stuck with us.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: I would not be too anxious to take credit over there if I were the opposition.

Growers had been caught in a financial squeeze because legislation establishing the grain financial protection program does not permit the payment of claims for balances outstanding on basis contracts. In general terms, this type of contract defers part of the payment, and that amount does not quality for compensation; at least that is the present interpretation of the act.

This special assistance is necessary because there was an understanding in the farm community that producers were entitled to total coverage on basis contracts, including the balances outstanding.

The \$1.4 million will be distributed to producers through the Grain Financial Protection Board. This action means that basis contract sales made to McKinlay and Sons Ltd. are now covered. In taking this action, the government has provided the board with a five-year period in which to build up its fund and make repayments.

Producer and dealer organizations in the grain industry have been holding discussions with the ministry on changes to existing legislation to clarify the extent of coverage under the grain financial protection plans.

I also wanted to make a very brief statement on special undertakings in the area of tornado relief. Unfortunately, that statement is not here yet because it was just passed by cabinet this morning. I wonder if I could get permission to revert to statements when it arrives.

Mr. Wildman: You are not supposed to run it through the shredder; you are supposed to run it through the Gestetner.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITY STUDY

Hon. Mr. Cousens: I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Correctional Services will be undertaking a feasibility study concerning the possible establishment of a correctional facility near the Bruce Energy Centre industrial park, near Kincardine in Bruce county. As honourable members are aware, based on the original initiative of municipal and business representatives in Bruce county, since 1978 the government has been supporting development of an industrial park adjacent to Ontario Hydro's Bruce nuclear power development. The Bruce Energy Centre proposed the utilization of waste heat in the form of steam and hot water for agricultural, aquacultural and industrial development.

Since its establishment the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development has played a key role in supporting this unique initiative, which is today managed by Ontario Hydro. Most recently, the government of Ontario indicated its commitment to provide the necessary funding for the steam line and the necessary infrastructure from the Bruce nuclear power development to the site of the Bruce Energy Centre industrial park. Not to prejudge the conclusions of the feasibility study, there may be a number of advantages in building a correctional services facility on or about this particular site.

First, there are current population pressures at correctional institutions throughout the province. An additional facility could alleviate, to some degree, current or future strain on the system. Second, the facility could provide a positive economic benefit to the community and the region in terms of both direct and indirect service infrastructure, job creation and job retention and increased tax revenues to the local community.

Third, if the steam byproduct can be utilized, certain projects may be undertaken at the

correctional services facility which might develop or enhance the job skills of the inmates in such areas as agricultural and aquacultural management and mechanical or services projects.

I would like to indicate that the Ministry of Correctional Services will receive proposals from private sector management consulting firms by not later than July 15, 1985, with the recommendation of the selection of the appropriate firm that will carry out this study by August 1, 1985. It is the ministry's desire to have the feasibility study detailing options and recommendations by the appropriate firm completed on or about January 31, 1986.

The broad parameters for the feasibility study can be stated as follows: explore the possible option of using this site as a means of addressing population pressures in provincial institutions; evaluate potential and compatible utilization of existing or planned energy centre site resources and assess matters pertaining to institutional produce development where appropriate; assess aspects concerning the economic, social and environmental impact on a potential site; and examine the suitability of a site, taking into account the administrative and operations requirements of my ministry.

2:30 p.m.

I am confident this initiative will receive the widest possible degree of consultation, not only through the various ministries which, in one way or another, can bring expertise to the project, but also, most important, throughout the community surrounding the Bruce Energy Centre.

If the feasibility study determines the facility is viable, I believe it could provide for the establishment of a needed correctional facility affording appropriate levels of treatment and training for offenders as well as sending a positive signal to private industry about the attractiveness of locating in the region.

I believe that initiative reflects both the commitment this government has to the success of the Bruce Energy Centre and its leadership in providing innovative and unique opportunities to develop and enhance the skills of inmates throughout the provincial corrections system so that they may re-enter society as responsible and productive citizens.

HELP CENTRES

Hon. Mr. Gillies: I am pleased to inform the House of the extension of funding and changes to the role of the labour-sponsored help centres that will put particular emphasis on the needs of unemployed older workers.

Since 1983 Ontario has co-operated with the federal government in the funding of labour-sponsored help centres. Members may recall that a number of these centres were initiated and established by labour organizations to assist unemployed workers during the downturn in the economy by providing them with counselling, information, referral and support services. Currently, there are 17 such centres operating under the help centre program with funding provided as a special initiative in the 1984 Ontario budget.

This program was to have terminated in March 1985. However, the province agreed to extend funding to June 30, 1985, in order that an operational review could be completed. Results of the review indicate that a particular need exists for counselling and referral services among older workers.

Employment training and job search counselling services are recognized as necessary steps in the adjustment process for many unemployed persons, especially displaced long-term employees, older workers and re-entrants to the labour force who may well be unfamiliar with the skills and techniques required to gain employment in today's labour market. In addition, changing circumstances in the labour market indicate a greater need for training and retraining efforts to enable workers to integrate more successfully into the work place.

A strong case has been made for the necessity of maintaining and improving the help centres network. A need exists for the type of counselling and referral services these centres provide, particularly where help centres are addressing the needs of more mature, older workers. Monthly activity reports from the centres indicate these clients represent the majority of those served.

Members will be aware that an entire network of services is available to provide assistance to younger workers aged 15 to 24, such as our youth employment counselling centres, training and job creation programs and so on. However, the labour market difficulties of older workers indicate a somewhat comparable network of services should be available to this group.

The current program will be extended and modified as a provincial initiative to provide services not currently available to unemployed older workers through other established operations such as the Canada employment centres.

The proposed modifications will enable the government program to focus more on the type and quality of services and will include the provision of a core group of services, including referral to training and retraining programs,

establishment of governing boards comprised of members representative of the community and co-ordination with existing federal and provincial services such as the youth employment counselling centres.

The government will extend funding in the amount of \$3 million to the centres over two years. Ontario will contribute up to 50 per cent of operating costs to a maximum of \$75,000 a year per centre. Centres will be required to demonstrate community support by raising at least 50 per cent of operating costs themselves. This can include in-house contributions of rent or services.

Existing labour-operated centres will be encouraged to continue to operate under the new program criteria. In areas where no centre currently exists, or where the existing centre does not choose to operate under the new criteria, proposals for new centres from community groups will be sought.

I have approached my federal counterpart, the Honourable Flora MacDonald, Minister of Employment and Immigration, to encourage a continuation of matching federal support. Older workers, both in the work place and those who suffer layoff situations, have difficult retraining choices. They pose particular challenges to humane and productive governments which recognize that the ultimate test of the competitiveness of our economy is in the quality and mobility of our work force. The help centres program provides one more piece of assistance to older workers who want to participate fully in our economy.

I have also requested the Ontario Manpower Commission to look into the specific needs of older, mature workers and to bring forward recommendations that address this area of concern more completely.

ORAL QUESTIONS

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Mr. Wrye: In the absence of the Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Timbrell), I have a question for the Premier.

I am sure the Premier is aware of the remarkable speech in this House during the throne speech date last week by his colleague the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie), in which the minister finally acknowledged that current affirmative actions programs need more teeth and that the purely voluntary approach adopted by this Tory government for the past 10 years has, to use his words, "simply failed."

I am sure the Premier agrees with his colleague's assessment of the existing affirmative action programs, and I just wonder how he accounts for this remarkable conversion in Tory thinking on this issue.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Our party, unlike my friend's, usually moves from one step to another as we see our success. Indeed, we started affirmative action about 1974 or 1975 and made reasonable progress with it.

In the review that started when I became leader, we decided equity employment—that is the term we are now using—should have more teeth in it and should be broadened to recipients of government transfers. Indeed, we said words to that effect in the throne speech; so the comments my colleague was stating in this House are quite in keeping with the thrust of this government.

Mr. Wrye: This conversion appears to have evolved rather quickly, because I am reminded of the brief from the Ontario Federation of Labour in February 1985. In response to that brief, the Minister responsible for Women's Issues and the then Minister of Labour, Mr. Ramsay, said mandatory affirmative action programs and equal pay for work of equal value legislation would not be introduced because they were, to use their words, "rigidly interventionist." Why are these programs' now not too rigidly interventionist?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The honourable member is extrapolating one comment into another field. I say to him again to go back to the throne speech where we talked about the issue of equal pay for work of equal value. It is one that has been debated in this House. It is one where the House has passed a resolution supporting the principle. It is one where the principle was difficult to implement.

Also, if the member will recall, during the election campaign I said it was time the government of Ontario led by example and put its house in order with its own 80,000 civil servants in a test area, which perhaps was more subject to existing controls and evaluations in terms of job equality, before putting it on to the private sector.

In fact, we put great stress in the throne speech on describing the word "value" and saying how much difficulty the private sector could have with that word because many small employers in particular do not even have any comparison systems. We have always said, "Progress a step at a time by consensus, by making things work." That is how we intend to do it.

2:40 p.m.

Ms. Gigantes: Is the Premier aware of Alice in Wonderland's tea party? Would he think about the question, how can you have more teeth when you have not had any?

Hon. F. S. Miller: That is certainly profound. I suspect the honourable member was tumbling down the hole at the time, because I remember Alice falling down the hole or the hare falling down the hole. It was quite interesting, was it not? That is the kind of world my friends are going to see once the unholy alliance over there gets working together.

Mr. Wrye: I want to remind the Premier of something he said in the fall of 1984, specifically last November 22, in what the Premier will finally look back on as the good old days during the leadership campaign, when he rejected public sector affirmative action or employment equity programs, leaving out the private sector for a moment. He said they would be voluntary, impelled only by the power of persuasion of the Premier. I note the Premier's seatmate, the Minister of Education (Mr. Grossman), remembers that very well. The Premier now has turned full circle.

In his speech the Minister of Labour claimed the proposals he outlined were not proposals born of a frantic rush to acquire power or perhaps to hold power. In view of—

Interjection.

Mr. Wrye: It is a very interesting speech. I have saved it.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Wrye: Is it the view of the Premier and his party, in power or out, that affirmative action or employment equity programs should be brought forward on a mandatory basis in both the public and private sectors? Would that be his view in power and out?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I have never had a chance to be out.

An hon. member It will not be long now.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Is that one of the jots and tittles the leader of the New Democratic Party said he would insist upon being complied with next week? I wonder. The jots and tittles are going to titillate us on this side of the House and upset those on that side.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

PLANT SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Bossy: I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture and Food. It

concerns the closing this November of the Libby McNeill and Libby plant, the processing plant in my riding of Chatham-Kent, and the layoff of more than 200 people.

In addition, the closing will have a serious ripple effect. Hundreds of seasonal jobs will be lost and hundreds of thousands of dollars of equipment will be redundant. These assets will become liabilities, and the lending institutions will be bringing further pressure on these farmers, who are already strapped by the economic situation.

What action, if any, has the minister taken to investigate the closing of this plant by Libby McNeill and Libby, one of the strongholds in the processing industry in Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Mr. Bossy: Would the minister tell me if he has taken any action to investigate the reasons for the closing? I am not satisfied with the reasons given.

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: It is true the plant is closing. When we got notice of it last week, we immediately talked with the company in question. They are moving the profitable part of that operation to their other plant in a nearby town, Wallaceburg. We have checked with the company. The lines they are closing down are lines that were in part-time operation only, largely during the growing season. They are moving their year-round lines to the Wallaceburg plant.

It is a very unfortunate situation, and we have certainly expressed our concerns to the company. We have alerted our local Ministry of Agriculture and Food people to be in communication with the concerned farmers to see if there are any programs in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food that will be of assistance to the growers who will be put out by the closing of the plant and partial termination of the lines in question.

Mr. Bossy: Has the minister checked to see how many imported products are on the shelves of the supermarkets in Ontario today? Can he confirm that the company has only one intention, to use its trade name on imported products on those shelves? I find that totally unacceptable.

Is the minister also aware that, according to the latest figures available, we have more than 77,000 tonnes of imported vegetables coming into this country annually?

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: Yes, we are quite aware of the situation in regard to importing fruits and vegetables into this province. Quite clearly, there has been a shift in the diet of Ontario consumers.

There are more fresh fruits and vegetables and fewer canned vegetables being consumed, and it is creating problems for part of our processing industry. Libby's was caught in part of that complex of problems and felt it had to make this move.

We have another program, which will be announced soon, on the small food processors' package, which may well be of some assistance in that area.

Mr. Ramsay: Is the minister not aware that this type of closure runs smack in the face of the policy of trying to substitute produce grown and processed in Ontario for the offshore produce we are getting, especially in the areas of tomato ketchup and paste production, which are in increasing demand in this province and are being brought in from offshore?

How much of the \$10 million spent in 1980 in revitalizing that plant was supplied by this government?

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: In the shifting market that exists in the province, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has put a great deal of emphasis on capturing as much as possible of the domestic market with products we can produce well and profitably in this province. That has been an ongoing program, which has recently obtained extra funding to increase that type of development, not only to help food processors but also through the Foodland Ontario program advertising some of our excellent Ontario-grown products.

As the shift in the marketplace occurs, we are most certainly trying to get a good share of the market and to make that share of the market grow. There are very definite indications that the steps we have taken have been quite successful.

This is one area of the marketplace that is reducing and causing some trouble. Through various programs, such as the one I just alluded to, we will be doing whatever we can to save that portion of the market and to capture it through various specialty programs.

Mr. Bossy: Would the minister take it upon himself to get in touch immediately with H. J. Heinz, Aylmer, Del Monte and all the other processors to see how bad a shape they are in and to find out if they are going to close their operations on tomato juices, etc., in our province? This is a serious situation. If Libby's goes down, why not the others?

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: Our marketing group and our processing group are in constant contact with the industry. This closure has been of concern to our ministry for some time. The ministry staff will certainly be in touch with other processors in those lines.

2:50 p.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Rae: I see the Minister of Education in his seat. He had a picture in his hand; I am not sure whether it was a campaign photograph for the last campaign or the next one. However, since he is in his place, I would like to ask him a question about the implementation of the extension of separate school funding to grade 11 in the fall of 1985.

It has now been a few days more than a year since the announcement was made by Premier Davis with respect to the government's plans, and it is our understanding that 32 plans from the Roman Catholic separate school boards have been approved for recommendation to the minister.

Is it his intention as the minister to introduce legislation today or tomorrow? If it is not his intention to do that, will he, before leaving office, at least ensure publication of the plans of the school boards that have been approved by the Commission for Planning and Implementing Change in the Governance and Administration of Secondary Education in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Perhaps.

Mr. Rae: That may be an epitaph that the minister would like to see on his record as Minister of Education, but I do not think it is going to do him much good in the longer term.

I would like to ask the maybe, iffy minister whether he would care to answer this question quite directly. If he is not prepared to do that, why not, since it was an initiative of the government of which he was a member a year ago? Why is he not prepared, before leaving office, to make it clear precisely what plans have been authorized while those people were in government?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me first say that those plans have not been authorized by the government; they have been recommended to the government for approval. There is an important difference.

Second, I did not indicate that we would not, but only that those matters are among a number of matters that remain unresolved.

Third, I understand the honourable member's interest in getting these things done in a hurry at this stage. However, I remind the member, who, together with his colleagues in the Liberal Party, is so anxious to get this legislation introduced by

tomorrow afternoon, for whatever reason, that from last fall until this assembly reconvened a short time ago, not a single question was asked by either of the opposition parties with regard to where the legislation was; not one. They decided suddenly that they needed this legislation when they were worried that their colleagues might have to introduce it.

There was not one question all last year from the two opposition parties, who are now screaming about the delay and concern in implementation by this government. What is the member's real concern? It is their concern; that is his real concern.

Mr. Nixon: It seems strange that the minister would be accusing the two opposition parties of dragging their feet in this matter, since the announcement was made more than a year ago by the former Premier as government policy. Since that time the minister, and perhaps he would like to explain why to House, has received the reports of the Newnham commission and other various important pieces of information that have not been made public for the edification of the citizens of the province or the members of the opposition parties.

Why is the minister so reticent about making all this information public so that we as members of the Legislature could have it as preparation, perhaps, for new responsibilities that we would have and so that all the citizens of the province deeply interested in this sensitive matter could use it to answer some of the questions that have been asked so forcefully?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I did not accuse the opposition parties of delaying. In fact, that would be wrong for me, since the Ontario Liberal Party has been in favour of this policy, without very many details on implementation, since 1971. Far be it from us to suggest that they have delayed.

Mr. Nixon: Tell me about it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is right. The difference is that we have taken an extensive period of time to make sure there are appropriate conditions and provisions attached, care that the member did not take in 1971 when he announced his support for that policy.

On the question of information being available, let me say quite clearly that if I am in a position to introduce this legislation tomorrow, I will provide in the compendium all the information forwarded to us by the planning and implementation commission, all the briefs submitted, all the documents available inside the government on this issue. I will undertake that it will be the most comprehensive compendium

ever attached to a piece of legislation introduced in this Legislature.

Further, if I am not able to introduce that legislation tomorrow and if a successor is in place some time later this month and is in a position to introduce that legislation, I have undertaken not only to share my personal notes on the matter with that minister but also to make available my personal notes emanating out of my discussions over the past week with the various interest groups.

I shall go further and say to my successor that if he or she desires my own personal advice, information and biases on some of those, without prejudice, I will offer that information too. In other words, everything I have, including what I have learned over the past month and a half, will be made available forthwith should there be a change in government.

Mr. Rae: Last fall the Minister of Education was out hustling delegates. The former Premier was holed up in his office and would not come out. We needed a crowbar and bells ringing to get him out. The Newnham commission was holding hearings. To suggest we should be asking for answers from the Newnham commission prior to its hearings is an absolute, palpable absurdity and the minister knows it. It is an absurd argument. The minister knows that full well. I am astonished somebody of his character and experience in this House would stoop to that kind of argument.

Mr. Breaugh: Not everyone is astonished.

Mr. Rae: Not everyone is astonished, but I am still capable of being astonished by the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary?

Mr. Rae: How can the minister explain the failure of the government of which he is a member to respond months after the Newnham commission has submitted its recommendations with respect to several school boards? Why has this information not been made public to the people of this province? Why has the government been sitting on it for so long? It sat on it through the election, it sat on it after the election and it is going to sit on it until it leaves office. Can the minister explain that kind of behaviour?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight for the honourable member. The Newnham commission was not holding hearings all during last fall when he was failing to ask questions about delays. The Newnham commission held hearings on Novem-

ber 22 and 29, December 5 and 6, and then held all the other meetings in January.

Mr. Rae: There was no point in asking questions. We were not sitting in January. Were we sitting in February and March?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There were meetings in London, North Bay, Timmins, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Ottawa and Toronto. They were in January and February, not last fall when the member said they were holding hearings.

Let us go further, because it is fundamental to the answer to the question. The Newnham commission was to meet with the school boards to hold these hearings to get public input before making recommendations to us on the legislation. The Newnham commission had its last public hearing on February 28. The member will not be surprised to know it was not ready on March 1 with its recommendations on how to proceed legislatively, having finished its hearings on February 28. Therefore, it was well into March before the Newnham commission, which the member supports, was ready to provide recommendations to us on legislative alternatives.

Mr. Rae: How could we ask you anything before then?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member was so anxious to get this bill in place, why was he not standing up suggesting the Newnham commission meet earlier or meet more often?

Mr. Speaker: Order. That sounds like a very complete answer.

3 p.m.

Mr. Rae: The board plans for Brant were approved at a commission meeting on April 17 and letters of recommendation on April 18; for Bruce-Grey on May 9 of this year; for Carleton on May 2; for Cochrane-Iroquois Falls on April 24; for Dufferin-Peel on April 25; for Durham on April 18; for Elgin on April 25; for Frontenac-Lennox and Addington on May 2, and so on. We were told consistently by the Newnham commission prior to that time it was not making anything available until stuff had gone to the government. At that point, it would be up to the government whether material would be made public.

With respect, it has now been several weeks, indeed months, since recommendations were made by the Newnham commission with respect to individual counties. Surely we are entitled to have this information from the government of

Ontario, which, alas, is still the government for another 24 hours, 26 to 36 hours, however long it may be.

Why has this information not been made public, shared with the Legislature, the public and the counties involved and with the people of Ontario? Why has the government been sitting on it for so long?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: May I remind the member that those recommendations emanate out of agreements reached between the boards of education, duly elected public officals, together with the Roman Catholic separate school boards. That information can be made available by those people, if they so wish, in their areas. There is nothing whatever to inhibit those people who have entered into agreements, who have agreed with the planning and implementation commission on the way to proceed. There is nothing whatever secret about those. If those boards want to make that information available to their own elected people and their own municipalities, that is fine. This government is not impeding them.

If the member is asking why we have not approved all of those plans, I can only tell him it could be that some of the legislative alternatives that this government might select might alter some of those plans. That may or may not be the case; I cannot say. Therefore, it would create a very awkward circumstance if plans were approved and subsequent legislation approved by this assembly—a minority parliament—overruled some of those plans.

Mr. Rae: It was the minister's party that chose to call an election rather than deal with this issue in the months of March and April. The Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) was quoted widely in the press as saying the reason he did it at this time—in fact he said it on one program on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.—was because there was a feeling in the caucus that it could not face this issue in September and wanted to face the public before the issue became too difficult for the Tory party to handle politically.

If we are in a difficult situation today with respect to the public not being informed and not being fully aware of what is involved, that responsibility lies with the Conservative Party of Ontario for the decisions it has taken, and the record will speak clearly to that.

It does not make much sense to publicize plans that have not been approved by the ministry. What was going on as these plans were produced by the implementation commission? Surely it would have been possible, because there is nothing to stop the Minister of Education, and we

had a Minister of Education prior to his assuming office; I know he will remember that.

What was the government doing throughout this stage? Why was there no legislation ready for May 3 or as soon as the government came out of the election? Why has it taken this long for the government to produce any legislation?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The planning and implementation commission provided its legislative suggestions, as it ordinarily was asked to do, by about the middle of March. The member may believe a minister of the crown ought to take those recommendations and simply put them into legislation and hand them into the House the following week.

This government has provided very good government to the people of Ontario because it has studied these things and taken those actions after careful thought, without simply rubber-stamping someone else's recommendations. In the ordinary course, election or no election, that would have meant it would have been into the month of April before a prudent—that may be a word unknown to the honourable member—administration would have introduced that legislation. What we are talking about is the difference between mid-April for introduction of that bill and—

Mr. Martel: Mid-June.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is right. It is due to something the member finds very foreign, which is an election. Let us be clear about that; there was an election and that caused the delay.

That having been the case, the member asks why that bill was not ready for introduction immediately after May 2. I will tell him very simply: I became minister shortly after that election and I was not prepared simply to accept the latest civil service draft of the legislation. It might be the member's advice or direction to the new Minister of Education to walk in and introduce whatever piece of legislation he finds sitting there, drafted by lawyers for introduction into this House. That may become a hallmark of the New Democratic Party-Liberal knee-jerk administration. However, it will not be the hallmark of any administration run by the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario.

Mr. Sweeney: The Minister of Education will be aware that teacher contract law in Ontario requires either a teacher or a board to give notice by May 31 if a contract is going to be rescinded for whatever reason. Can the minister indicate to us what directions are being given to teachers and school boards across Ontario with respect to changes that may have to take place with

teachers' contracts subsequent to May 31 as a result of this new legislation?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: One of the constant themes last week of my discussions, which were important, with all the supervisory officials, the trustees, the home and school representatives and the teachers' federation was that as many of these matters as possible should be left to local determination. As evidenced by the previous question, in more than 30 cases an arrangement has been struck and in those cases the teachers' federation and the boards have been part and parcel of sorting all that out. Notwithstanding the provision the member properly raised, the fact is that appropriate arrangements and appropriate directions are in place.

It would be better if the legislation had been passed by now. It would be better if there were more finality and certainty to the situation. Notwithstanding that, the reports I have received indicate that because of the co-operation, these matters have been worked out at the local level. It is worth pausing to say there has been an extraordinary amount of co-operation on this issue, as I am sure the member would agree, notwithstanding some public perceptions.

Mr. Rae: I am sure everybody in the House appreciates the offer of advice and co-operation that came from the Minister of Education in an earlier answer he made to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon).

However, I would like to ask the minister another question, and it is not meant rhetorically. How can one draw any conclusion other than that it has been the determination of the Conservative Party, in its last days of office, that it was prepared to leave the province high and dry on the issue, to leave everybody high and dry with respect to the position of the Conservative Party, and to throw it all into the lap of the new government, saying, "You deal with it in the two months that are left prior to September 1"? How can one draw any other conclusion than that they are saying, "We screwed it up; now you try and fix it in two months"?

Is that really the final message he wants to have come from the Conservative Party on this issue, which has proved to be so difficult for Ontario?

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I can only say to the member that last week I invited the four major groups I talked about a moment ago to meet with me. They found those sessions very important. If the member called them and asked them how important those sessions were, I think they would

tell him they were very important. Two of the four asked for the opportunity to come back a couple of days later and offer some more ideas and alternatives that had not been thoroughly canvassed until then.

Further, I will tell the members quite honestly that the four groups raised some factual circumstances that could arise with the implementation which the planning and implementation commission and the ministry had not foreseen. It speaks again to the validity and importance of going to the front line of delivery to find out what some of those problems might be.

The member may feel it would be better to rush that legislation in, notwithstanding some of the concerns raised by those groups and the fact that two of those groups asked for an opportunity, and did take an opportunity, to come back in and give us further advice.

I can only tell the member I would rather be subject to the accusations to which he wants to subject us than be subject to the accusation that we brought in a bill that caused more rancour and more public division because it was rushed. That would be eminently wrong, and I will accept the political posturing the member wants to put on the circumstances rather than run the risk of encouraging rancour on this bill.

PATRONAGE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Sargent: I would have liked to have some dialogue with the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller), but I will try the Deputy Premier to see who is running the store over there.

My concern today, and that of a lot of people, is regarding the hundreds of patronage appointments. I wonder how far down the system they go. For example, last night the Bruce County Law Association, which is composed of many Liberal and Conservative lawyers, was shocked and dismayed at—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Question, please.

An hon. member: We have one who travels the circuit. We have a circuit lawyer, one who goes around the province.

Mr. Sargent: Yes, the circuit. They were unanimously shocked and dismayed at the government's total irresponsibility in its appointments to the high offices of the court. For example, it has appointed a farmer—and believe me, I love farmers—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the honourable member get to the question, please.

Mr. Sargent: How can I? They appointed a well-known Tory farmer with no experience in the law as registrar of the courts, and such other responsibilities as the local registrar of the courts, the clerk of the district court and the registrar of the surrogate court.

Mr. Speaker: What is your question?

Mr. Sargent: Even a farmer outstanding in his field—

Interjections.

Mr. Sargent: I want to say that our court system is screwed up so badly in so many cases that crown attorneys and judges who cannot make a living as lawyers in the business are appointed by the people over there to these high positions. I would like to know—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is your question-

Mr. Sargent: In view of the fact-

Mr. Speaker: Order. I gather your question is: Is the Deputy Premier aware? Is that it?

Mr. Sargent: No.

Mr. Speaker: Please put your question.

Mr. Sargent: I want to know in how many of the 52 counties across the province that is happening.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is my understanding that registrars, in almost all circumstances, are primarily keepers of records. It is also my understanding that the farmers of this province are excellent keepers of records.

I hasten to add that this party does not share the jaundiced view of farmers so obvious in the member for Grey-Bruce. At any rate, it is my understanding that, in this circumstance, this is the only person who has been so appointed.

Mr. Sargent: The Deputy Premier must know that the person appointed has to know the rules of evidence and the rules of the court. He also has to make the tax costs, to see that the lawyers are filing their pleadings properly and to sign default judgements.

Interjection.

Mr. Sargent: You are making your friend Mickey Rooney look like a piker.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Sargent: My point is that they are destroying our courts by doing this. How many people are getting appointments now?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would have to defer to the Attorney General (Mr. Pope) to know how many nonlawyers are in charge of such tasks within the court system. I believe there are some and I am sure that the member for BON-

Interjection.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon)—I am sure he would be delighted to know, since he is such a nonfriend of lawyers, that there are some nonlawyers appointed to such positions. I will have to ask the Attorney General how many nonlawyers are in such positions. It is my understanding there are some.

ONTARIO MOTOR VEHICLE ARBITRATION PLAN

Mr. Swart: I would like to put a question to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations in regard to the auto arbitration plan he recently announced. The plan does a lot more to protect the automobile companies than it does to protect the automobile owners.

Does the minister not recognize the bias of this program when, first, the auto companies themselves determine whether a purchaser will have arbitration coverage for four years, three years, two years or one year, or no coverage at all; second, the auto owners have to forgo any legal action if they apply for arbitration; and third, the whole arbitration process is weighted in favour of the companies?

Is this kind of bias not inevitable and deliberate when the minister extensively consulted the auto companies but did not even ask for the views of the Automobile Protection Association which, of course, is the consumers' dominant advocate and protector?

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Swart: Why would the minister ignore that organization if he wanted a fair plan?

Hon. Mr. Runciman: The member is obviously under some strain. I do not know if it is tight shorts or what; I am not sure.

In any event, the statement he made is completely inaccurate. The ministry did consult with the organization he mentioned. The individual who appeared at the press conference and was allowed to make his statement and who made some inaccurate charges at that press conference was very much involved. Following that press conference, I had the opportunity to listen to a tape of a radio show done in 1984 where that individual, representing the organization the member just mentioned, was very supportive of the program we announced a week ago.

3:20 p.m.

All those charges are absolute nonsense. This program is going to assist the consumers of this province. I suggested the other day that anything with which that party over there is happy has to involve government intervention. That is the only thing. If they had their way, we would require government approval to go to the washroom.

This program is going to work to the betterment of the Ontario consumers. It is going to be fairly reviewed after two years, and if it is not working, we will then be prepared to consider legislation. We are optimistic it is going to succeed.

Mr. Swart: In spite of the minister's rhetoric, I suggest he well knows this is just a facade. I wonder whether the minister recalls that on page 6 of his statement he said the new auto arbitration program "...in essence, is the arrangement GM, Ford and, most recently, Chrysler have with the Better Business Bureau." May I remind the minister that the agreement is so biased that, although the car owner must answer all questions, the auto companies can withhold any information they consider to be confidential or proprietary.

Is it not true that the agreement was written by GM and that any similar plan will incorporate the same bias? As the minister's last act, will he not now authorize the delay of the implementation of the program and refer the whole matter to an all-party committee of the Legislature to bring in a report on real consumer protection for auto owners?

Hon. Mr. Runciman: The member is accurate concerning how the program will work, but the overall process is substantially different. It involves new organizations, new skills, greater public involvement and a more comprehensive training program for arbitrators. This program brings arbitration to 99 per cent of Ontario car buyers.

If a lemon law is needed in this province, it is a political lemon law for the crowd on that side of the room.

LEGISLATIVE REFORM

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio, the member for Durham East. Could he indicate to the House what steps he is taking to streamline the parliamentary process with which he has been charged by the Premier of the province (Mr. F. S. Miller)?

[Applause]

Hon. Mr. Cureatz: Thank you. No member of this House is more dedicated to the value of all members of this Legislature than I am. With that in mind, there is no need to reinvent the wheel. This chamber should direct the procedural affairs committee to start to re-examine past reports so the committee can take into consideration some of the very valued aspects that have been re-examined for too long, then make a final motion to be presented back in the chamber some time in the fall.

TRITIUM PRODUCTION

Hon. Mr. Harris: In the Legislature on June 11 in response to questions from the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) and the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman), I undertook to provide information relating to the sale of tritium which Ontario Hydro plans to extract from used heavy water at a tritium removal facility under construction at Darlington.

Ontario Hydro is building this facility to reduce the level of tritium in heavy water in operating reactors. This reduction will contribute to the improvement of working conditions, the reduction of radiation dose to Ontario Hydro employees and the protection of the environment and public health in the event of spills of heavy water.

I am sure all members of the House support Ontario Hydro's initiative in constructing this facility. Indeed, the leader of the New Democratic Party voiced concern in the House on June 2, 1983, that Ontario Hydro had cancelled the second plant at Pickering and was consolidating its tritium removal at the new Darlington site.

Tritium is a radioactive form of hydrogen, and the end product from the tritium removal facility will be tritium gas. It will be packaged and stored in secure containers. One option for Ontario Hydro is to store the tritium for a prolonged period and allow it to decay away to harmless helium. The quantities involved are very small and storage would pose no hazard to personnel. The material would be open to international inspection and safeguards established under the nonproliferation treaty with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The second alternative, which is being explored by Ontario Hydro and federal authorities, is for Ontario Hydro to sell its tritium when it becomes available in 1988 to Canadian firms and to others for peaceful purposes. There is currently a commercial market for very small quantities of tritium for use in self-illuminating signs—emergency-exit signs, for example, and airport

runway lights. This market is growing rapidly and new applications are being sought.

Further down the road there will be a need for larger quantities of tritium as a fuel for fusion power reactors, initially in research reactors and eventually in demonstration reactors. The federal government is currently assessing whether there may be conditions under which Ontario Hydro's future tritium production could be made available to the world community in a manner consistent with Canada's international commitments to nonproliferation and world peace.

In response to the specific question by the member for Grey-Bruce I can inform the House that Ontario Hydro has no contract or commitment to supply tritium to the United States Department of Energy. Indeed, Ontario Hydro has not had any discussions with the Department of Energy on this matter.

Ontario Hydro has been discussing the supply of small amounts, gram-sized quantities, in the late 1980s for use in the fusion research machine at Princeton University. Any sale to this facility would be subject to approval by Canada's Department of External Affairs and the Atomic Energy Control Board.

Mr. Speaker: I might suggest that the standing orders do say that comprehensive answers such as that should be given during statements by the ministry.

PLANT SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Fulton: My question is for the Minister of Labour. During the past week I have received several phone calls from Scarborough residents concerned about rumours that the Philips Electronics manufacturing plant in the Milner Avenue-Markham Road-Highway 401 area of Scarborough is to be closed permanently and its production facilities moved offshore.

Can the minister tell us whether he has had any notification from Philips Electronics of such intent? If there has been no official notice, has he heard the rumours and has he discussed the situation with the company?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I have not been in receipt of any formal notification, nor in my role as Minister of Labour have I been advised of any information with respect to this closure, but I certainly will explore it.

Mr. Fulton: The Philips plant currently employs 600 persons. Approximately 265 of those are directly involved in manufacturing; the rest are in sales, management and other positions. I understand the plant is up for sale. Concerned callers have told me they believe all

the manufacturing will be moved abroad, with only a warehousing unit remaining in Scarborough. Therefore, most of those 600 jobs are going to be threatened.

Given the effect that such a closing would have on this area of Scarborough, will the minister undertake to have his staff meet with Philips officials to be in a position to brief the incoming government fully and allow all possible action to be taken to try to prevent such a closure?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I indicated in my first answer I would look into the situation.

3:30 p.m.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Mr. Wildman: I have a question for the Minister of Northern Affairs. Can the minister explain why his government has failed to implement the promise he made in 1982 of a five-year program to provide seniors and the disabled across the north with long-term-care beds in communities where there is a need?

Why, despite the fact that more than a dozen communities applied in 1982 and five received funding approval from the ministry in 1983, do they still have to negotiate with the ministry and why do officials in Toronto continue a seemingly interminable series of reviews, studies and other questions about the applications? Why are so many communities still awaiting approval and why are those that received approval in 1983 still awaiting construction?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I want to thank the honourable member for recognizing this very important program that affects seniors in northern Ontario. It is one of the really exciting programs in the north, as he correctly recognized.

We have approved a number of projects in northern Ontario under this program. If one goes to Atikokan, construction is in full flight and is going full steam ahead. The member for Rainy River (Mr. Pierce) will confess to that; he was there turning the sod three or four weeks ago.

In Dryden, construction will start in about three weeks. Also, a year from now, construction will start in Sioux Lookout. We have some sorting out to do in the town of Geraldton and in Rainy River, Chapleau and Matheson. We have already announced construction in Smooth Rock Falls. This program is being accepted right across northern Ontario. It is moving ahead at a rapid pace and we will meet our commitment.

Mr. Wildman: It is interesting the minister would consider a delay of three years a rapid development. That is along the lines of the

Minister of Education (Mr. Grossman) believing it would be precipitate to publish legislation after a year.

Can the minister explain to or tell the House when the communities that are still awaiting approval, such as Chapleau, Wawa, Hornepayne and the others throughout the north that have applied, will be given final approval or denial so they will know where they stand?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We are in daily discussion with the municipality of Chapleau. There are some real problems with an overabundance of facilities in Chapleau, as the member is fully aware. We have been in discussion with the small town of Hornepayne. They have a small facility and we are looking at their needs. Wawa will come in good pace.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I am sure the minister was inadvertently misleading all of us when he said there are a few things to sort out in Chapleau and that there is an overabundance of facilities in Chapleau.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: That simply is not true.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I must correct the honourable member. He does not know his own community, his own area, when he talks like that. He does not know what is going on.

Mr. Van Horne: What the member for Algoma was asking and did not receive an answer to was whether the minister would provide a recent or up-to-date timetable on the facilities the member has been asking for. The minister says he is sorting things out, but he did not tell us specifically the timetable for completion or agreement. Will he provide that final timetable?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We would be glad to. As I said earlier in my remarks, this is a very exciting program. It is a \$25-million to \$30-million program over a five-year period, and we will meet the needs of all the seniors in northern Ontario. I can assure the member of that.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Hon. Mr. Harris: Further to the response to the question asked by the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) concerning the status of commercial fishing on Lake St. Clair, I indicated to the honourable member that a review of the stocks was not complete. My staff informs me that is correct and a review of all quota species is not complete, but it has reviewed the status of yellow pickerel.

Based on this review, my ministry is not allocating yellow pickerel to the commercial fishery on Lake St. Clair. As a consequence, my staff is undertaking discussions with the 10 fishermen with a view to negotiating a suitable solution, which could involve an offer for purchase on a willing-buyer, willing-seller arrangement and the consolidation of existing quotas of other commercial species among the fishermen who wish to remain in the fishery.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Minister of Skills Development. Last week we heard that the federal government slashed the budget of its job skills plan from some \$95 million to \$26 million from its general industrial training budget. What has the minister done in response to this tremendous slash in the training budget?

Hon. Mr. Gillies: The concerns of the province regarding this have been conveyed to the federal government on a number of occasions. I happen to have a couple of letters right here. With the indulgence of the House, I could read them into the record.

The province is very concerned about the directions being taken with both the general industrial training and the critical trade skills training programs. I conveyed those concerns to the minister in Ottawa when I met with her last week. I expect that in the near future she will have a statement which will enhance the funding of those programs for the summer months prior to the introduction in September of her labour market strategy, of which this government is most supportive.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Agriculture and Food previously requested permission to make a statement regarding the tornado relief. Would I have the agreement of the House if we reverted to statements?

Agreed to.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY (continued)

DISASTER RELIEF

Hon. Mr. Stevenson: This is a very brief statement which I am making as well on behalf of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Timbrell) and the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Brandt).

I wish to inform members that the government is offering subsidized, low-interest loans to assist the farm operations and businesses that suffered

major property damage in the tornado. Under the Ontario tornado disaster aid program, farmers and businesses in the designated disaster areas can apply for special loans to cover rebuilding and the replacement of assets not covered by insurance and the regular relief fund. The program is intended to make up the difference between insurance and additional money available from the disaster relief fund and costs of rebuilding.

About 200 farms suffered damage from the tornado. Half of the people lost their homes, barns, storages or equipment, which has seriously disrupted the day-to-day operation of their farms. This program offers the intermediate credit these farmers need to help rebuild their operations to the state that existed before the disaster struck. Loans from chartered banks, trust companies and credit unions will be available at the prime lending rate, up to a maximum of \$150,000. These loans will be guaranteed by the province. Borrowers will pay six per cent of the interest charges for five years, with an additional one per cent added each subsequent year until the 10-year maximum repayment period ends. The maximum repayment period for inventory losses is three years.

Farmers may obtain application forms, program details and counselling from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food county offices in Wellington, Bruce, Grey, Dufferin, south Simcoe, Victoria, Peterborough and Hastings counties and the regional municipalities of Durham and York.

Manufacturing, commercial and service businesses can apply for this assistance through the Ontario Development Corp. of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The ministry staff of my colleague the Minister of Industry and Trade has contacted every commercial and industrial business to ascertain assistance requirements. I would like to stress that these assistance programs are designed to allow businesses to rebuild with no loss of jobs.

PETITIONS

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. O'Connor: I have the honour to present to this House two petitions raised by the citizens of Oakville. The first, containing 585 names, reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We urge the Ontario government to delay implementation of extended funding to Roman

Catholic high schools until the necessary legislation has been debated, passed and tested in the courts."

3:40 p.m.

The second petition contains the names of 161 teachers from four of our high schools located in Oakville and reads as follows:

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on

the government:

"(1) to seek a constitutional referral prior to any implementation to determine whether extension would conflict with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"(2) to debate fully the issue of extension prior to any implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for the people to appear and be heard."

Mr. Lane: I have two petitions, which read as

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition

the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas any action to extend public funding to separate Roman Catholic secondary schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas it is uncertain whether extension would contravene the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and

Freedoms; and

"Whereas in democratic societies there is a recognized convention which respects the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters are debated in the Legislative Assembly, with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard before an appropriate committee of the Legislature;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on

the government:

"(1) to seek a constitutional referral prior to any implementation to determine whether extension would conflict with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"(2) to debate fully the issue of extension prior to any implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for the people to appear and be heard."

The first petition is signed by 59 teachers and staff of the secondary school in Kenora.

The second petition reads exactly the same and is signed by 57 teachers and staff of the Elliot Lake Secondary School.

Mr. McGuigan: I have a petition which reads as follows:

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to debate the issue of extension of public funding to separate secondary schools prior to any implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for the people to appear and be heard."

It is signed by 50 residents of my riding.

Mr. Hennessy: I have a petition which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, support full funding for the completion of the Catholic separate school system with its implementation in September 1985."

It is signed by 550 people of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Fort William.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. Foulds moved, seconded by Mr. Wildman, first reading of Bill 20, An Act to ensure the Regeneration and Reforestation of Forests in

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Foulds: The purpose of the bill is to require the Ministry of Natural Resources to prepare a forest resource analysis and forest resource program at regular intervals to assist in ensuring the wise management of forest resources in Ontario.

The bill also makes it a duty of the minister, in legislative terms, to ensure that the forest resources of Ontario are managed on a sustainedyield basis. The inventory is to be done by October 31, 1986.

It is appropriate that such a bill be introduced on this, the second-last day of the present government. After 42 years it has failed to manage the resources of Ontario wisely-

Mr. Speaker: Is that in your notes?

Mr. Foulds: - and I am certainly interested in this bill to ensure that the future government does

ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Philip moved, seconded by Mr. Reville, first reading of Bill 21, An Act to amend the Animals for Research Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: Under the present law, the operator of a pound may not destroy a dog or cat in the pound without first satisfying any request for purchase of the dog or cat for research. The amendment would empower local municipalities to pass a bylaw authorizing an operator to destroy a dog or cat without satisfying such a request.

I hope the new government will copy this act just as the old government copied my leghold-trap act.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Foulds: As members will recall, in the three minutes I had on Friday I indicated the present government not only has lost the confidence of this House, and is certainly going to lose it by tomorrow, but demonstrated in its loss on May 2 that it has also lost the confidence of the people of Ontario. Even more important for a government, it has lost confidence in itself to govern and it therefore no longer deserves to carry on as a government.

I was in full flight talking about the speech from the throne, because that deathbed repentance is simply not sufficient. It is not sufficient after 42 years of government to promise a number of reforms. It is not sufficient, when one has the power to act, merely to speak.

Although the right of speech and the power of words are enormous in this assembly, the power of government to act is enormous. The failure of this government to act, particularly in the past 15 years, has led me to the inevitable conclusion that it can no longer act; that it has become ossified by its own success; that it has become so inward-looking that it relies solely on polls and not on people; that the government and the Tory party have lost touch with the greatest cell network it or any government in the western world has built up, and that it has lost touch with its own supporters and not merely with the people of the province.

This government has failed not merely by what it has done but by what Catholics call its sins of omission, by what it has failed to do. There are not merely sins of commission; there are not merely acts that are bad and wrong and stupid and are political follies; there are also acts they have failed to carry out.

3:50 p.m.

In my memory, this government has been consistently self-serving and has confused its own self-interest with the greater interest of the people of the province. I want to remind members that this speech from the throne says nothing to me that previous speeches from the throne have not said. I want to read just one small quotation from a speech from the throne delivered in March 1971. That speech said:

"The current unconscionable levels of unemployment which have been forced upon the Canadian people will be combated with every means at the disposal of this provincial government. The budget will be presented on April 26. Its purpose will be to restore the inherent vitality of our economy...."

What was the unemployment rate back in May 1971? The unconscionable level of unemployment that this government was going to combat with every means at its disposal was 5.4 per cent. Between May 1971 and May 1985 the number of people without jobs in this province more than doubled. We know that in the intervening years there have been even higher levels of unemployment.

Since 1971, this government has failed to come to grips with the number one problem stalking our society and our province: the problem of work and providing jobs for people. This government has not only failed in the conventional sense but also failed to meet the challenge of the 1980s and the 1990s. It has failed in tough economic times to put to rest the fear about technological development. I want to talk about that in detail in a few minutes.

Today, I want to talk about two main things. One is the way the Conservative government has failed my part of the province, the northwestern part of Ontario. Northwestern Ontario contains 58.9 per cent of the land mass of the provincenot northern Ontario; just northwestern Ontario, the five northwestern ridings—and 3.2 per cent of the population. It has failed when I look over the record of this government when I was first elected and when I look at it today.

We have had the devastating pollution of the English-Wabigoon river system and the devastating social and economic impact on the people and the native people along that river system. This government has not yet solved that problem. It has had a decade and a half to come to grips with that problem and it has failed to do it.

Today, I introduced a bill on reforestation. This government has failed to protect the jobs of northern Ontario by failing to protect our forest industry. It has failed to regrow, replant and

regenerate the trees that are so crucial to the economy of northwestern Ontario. In my area of the province, 75 per cent of the jobs are related directly or indirectly to the forest industry. In spite of Mr. Davis's 1977 promise to plant two trees for every one, this government has failed to make those trees grow. Our industry, the little secondary manufacturing that we have in the northwest, is severely threatened by the inaction, stupidity, shortsightedness and coverup of this government.

This government has failed to protect and diversify the economies of one-industry towns in northern Ontario. Even Sudbury, a large metropolitan centre, is still largely a one-industry town subject to the whim of international markets. After 60 years, surely to goodness governments have a responsibility to protect not only their investment as governments but also the investment of the people in the area in schools and homes by diversifying the economies of those regions.

I want to talk about necessary medical transportation. During the recent election, this government announced a chintzy, second-rate, cheap program that was a blatant attempt to buy off northerners. The Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller), in a sense of generosity, flew to Fort Frances and announced they would pay for the first trip and part of the second trip. He talked about it as a "subsidy." I resent that, because the people of my part of the province deserve to have the same access to health care that, for the price of a subway token or a taxi fare, people in this part of the province have. This government has failed, and even failed in the speech from the throne, its deathbed repentance, to make a commitment for full funding for medically necessary travel.

Finally, almost a decade ago, eight years ago, this government appointed the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment. At the time we praised it; we thought it might be the last best hope for the sane development of our part of the province. However, I remember my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) warning us in caucus that he thought it was not going to develop that way. I remember vividly my then colleague the member for Lakeshore saying, "No, things will be all right; this will develop."

Very simply put, Mr. Justice Patrick Hartt failed in his mandate. He found the load too great and too onerous, and he passed on the torch. Who did the Tory government pass the torch to? A retired mining executive from Red Lake, who

had not the will, the strength, the stamina or the gifts to complete the work.

We have seen the most expensive royal commission in the history of Ontario become a laughingstock of the north and of this province. When I think of the stakes and what could have happened, given the kind of commission that, let us say, Mr. Justice Thomas Berger would have conducted, my heart breaks and a great well of anger comes up in me, as a northerner, about the failure of this Conservative government to come to grips with what could have been a development of our province and an important region of the province, combined with protection of our native people and of our environment.

What we have seen is waste and discrediting stupidity, and what we will see in the future, unfortunately, is an ad hoc development that does neither the north nor the province any credit. It makes Mackenzie King look decisive and filled with action.

Finally, I want to spend five minutes simply talking about technological development, because technology is hurtling down on all of us whether we like it or not. At a time when we are facing economic uncertainty, most of the people find that unsettling and worrisome. It is my contention that we as a Legislature and as leaders of our society have a responsibility to ride this tiger, because if we do not, it will devour us.

I suggest that all levels of government and perhaps spokespeople in all parties have been cowardly on this issue. It is one we must face and cope with or we will see an unemployment rate of 20 per cent in this province in the next 10 to 15 years.

My colleagues the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) and the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden), and my former colleague the member for Ottawa Centre, Mr. Cassidy, and I were on a task force of our party. Let me tell members that year of activity was one of those filled with more revelations for me about the state and the future of our society than any other task I have undertaken. Technology can transform—

An hon. member: Keep going. I am enjoying it.

Mr. Foulds: I am being encouraged by the government House leader to keep going because he is enjoying it and being discouraged by my whip from continuing. I do not know what that says, but I do want to spend just five more minutes on this topic before I wrap up my remarks.

4 p.m.

New technology can transform the lives of people. It can help the handicapped and it can eliminate the worst kinds of burdens of work for millions. The experts also tell us it could wipe out 500,000 manufacturing jobs in Canada and raise unemployment in Ontario to more than 20 per cent. We must soon learn to share the work there is on a basis that is fair and equitable or we will allow the so-called market system to condemn millions of workers to a life of economic deprivation and social insignificance.

Let me sum up a couple of things that are happening in Ontario. At present, the only growth area of our economy is the service sector. It now employs 66 per cent of the work force, compared to only 43 per cent a mere 30 years ago. However, the service-sector jobs that are replacing industrial jobs are much lower-paying. The average industrial wage is about \$450 a week and the average service-sector job pays about \$268 a week. Many service-sector jobs that now are being counted as jobs created are low-paying and part-time. They are the dead-end jobs at McDonald's and other fast food outlets.

The other thing that is happening, which is a worrying sign for our economy, is that because workers are working for less they therefore have less disposable income with which to stimulate the economy. For example, these new jobs do not allow people to buy homes because their income level is such they cannot afford either the down payment or the mortgage. The blue-collar working class is not being replaced by a new white-collar middle class but by a white-collar, working-poor class.

Low-paying service jobs are replacing highly paid industrial and resource jobs. Technology is replacing labour in every sector of our economy. That is the fundamental difference between this and previous industrial revolutions. Previous industrial revolutions affected only one part of the economy at a time. This one is affecting every sector of our economy: resource, manufacturing and service. Jobs are being shifted offshore and new jobs are not being created fast enough. Unemployment remains intolerably high.

For all the razzle-dazzle of the last provincial budget of the then Treasurer, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), he admitted in that budget that unemployment was going to remain at 9.1 per cent on average throughout the year. He announced 10 new programs but no new jobs.

Let me briefly conclude by saying what I believe needs to happen to combat the problems

of unemployment and technology that are closing in on our society like a pincer.

First, we have to establish portable pensions from year one of a person's work so that person can carry his pension from job to job and, therefore, retire in dignity with a full income voluntarily at age 50 or 55 after 30 or 35 years' work.

Second, we must look seriously at shorter work time. I do not care whether one calls it a shorter work week, a shorter working lifespan, longer paid vacations or a combination of those things. Unless we learn to share work and reduce Ontario's work week, we will not have the necessary job places for our young people at the end of the scale.

Third, at this time we must offer bridging pensions and new programs so that workers can voluntarily retire at age 55 if they wish so we can open up jobs immediately for young people in the work force. I say to the present government and the government in waiting that there is no use creating youth training programs if there is no real job for a young person to go to at the end.

Fourth, we must make training a part of every person's working life. Training and retraining are things we see as being on the job, a portion of the job, so that when faced with a new career, with a plant shutdown or with the termination of employment, a person has the skills to adapt and to take another job if it is available. We damned well have to make sure it is going to be available.

Finally, we must create real jobs, particularly in the area of what economists call import replacement. Just to give a small example, we import more than 92 per cent of medical appliances and medical technology used in this province. Surely to goodness we are capable of manufacturing our own medical supplies for this country. That is an example in the so-called service sector.

A second example is in the resource sector. We are the third-largest mining country in the world, even with the present recession, and we are the largest importers of mining machinery. We could create 20,000 jobs in this province over the next 15 years simply by manufacturing in this province the machinery we use in the mining industry as it is worn out and needs to be replaced.

Those are the kinds of real jobs in the real economy-import replacements—we must start to do and do fast.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much and I want to thank the members of the Legislature for listening to me. I will wind up by saying I believe

that after tomorrow the new parliament will be a workable and working parliament. I believe it will be a productive parliament and a parliament that historians will look upon not merely with interest but with some degree of awe.

I say to my new-found Liberal friends, as I said to my Tory friends for the last 15 years: "We will be judging you, we will be dogging you and we will be insisting not merely on the implementation of those things on which we have agreed but also on fairness and on right. We will be disagreeing with you."

I found it instructive, for example, that in the area of labour relations the Liberal Party was willing to agree to bring in first-contract legislation but was not willing to bring in anti-scab legislation. This party believes the second is just as important as the first because the two go hand in hand. We knew we could not get the second out of the present Liberal Party, but we will be doing everything we can in the parliament that is coming up to ensure that it does come forward.

It is interesting and instructive that although our capable negotiators were able to get out of the Liberals a commitment to northern health transportation, a commitment to a forest audit and a commitment to regeneration programs, we were not able to get out of them a commitment to a northern Ontario heritage fund that would diversify the economies of the single-industry towns of northern Ontario.

So there are differences, fundamental differences, and we will be emphasizing them when necessary. We will not, contrary to what the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller) and the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick think, be letting the Liberals off the hook in any single way. When it is necessary, we will fight them every step of the way just as we have fought the Tories every step of the way.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

Mr. McClellan: He had to look it up. Who is that man?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Thirty years and he still has to look it up. It is depressing. Ten years is the best I can do.

I was not going to participate in this debate until just a moment ago when I was wandering through the halls thinking about my options for presentation of the schools bill. While deep in thought, I happened to hear the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds)—

Mr. Foulds: He had to look it up. 4:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, that is right. I want the member to know that.

I heard him cautioning his friends in the Liberal Party that the New Democrats intended to hold them to account and not to let them off the hook. I quickly reached into my pocket to pull out—

Mr. McClellan: That is a computer printout.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It is a computer printout of Robert Nixon from Dateline Ontario a week ago. There were some things in it that I would like to caution our friends in the New Democratic Party about before they believe they are going to have much influence over here, or that the Liberals really intend to govern for two years as opposed to pulling the plug when it is convenient.

I want to warn them so I can rise in this House, back on this side, and say to the two or three who may still be left—

Mr. McClellan: As Premier Grossman.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: -so I can say to Ross, the member for Fort York, and the one or two other colleagues he will then have, "I told you so."

Mr. Kerrio: We know what you are up to.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We know what they are up to. I want to read some selected excerpts from Robert Nixon, putative Treasurer, "It is not legally binding. He is correct in that regard." We know what he is talking about. Let us go on. He also said in the next paragraph, and admitted under pressure, "The Liberals would suffer less from a quick election than the other two parties." That is something I would be worried about if I had been a signatory to the arrangement, which I never would have been.

Mr. Philip: Just about to sign it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member is going to get more nervous. Mr. Nixon goes on to say-

The Deputy Speaker: Would the member address his comments to the chair? Perhaps then there will be fewer interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I would want you to tell the good burghers of Oxford that the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), when asked further why David Peterson would not state unequivocally this week that there will not be an election for two years—indeed, why would he not?—answered, "I suppose you could imagine a circumstance where the agreement would not be binding."

They go on to ask him for some examples and he says things like a strike. "It could be anything where the welfare of the community is very much endangered and the government of the day might think something has to be done for the community." That is not too wide to drive a truck through, is it? No, not the Liberals they have trusted for so many years on these kinds of issues.

Mr. McClellan: Just who is it who is afraid of an election?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We are not afraid of an election. Let me say clearly, as proof of that, we indicated in some conversations with the New Democratic Party, which I would not want to refer to at length, that we were quite content with the circumstance whereby if we lost the confidence of the House, if we lost on a major vote, there would be an electoral test. We believe in that principle and on that count it might be useful to refer to Edward Blake, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) likes to do.

I was really interested that in the throne speech debate the Leader of the Opposition quoted Edward Blake, "who led my party more than a century ago." Imagine the leader of the Liberal Party quoting Edward Blake as one of his heros saying, "The privileges of parliament are the privileges of the people and the rights of parliament are the rights of the people."

Can my colleagues imagine the leader of the Liberal Party quoting Edward Blake, who is no doubt revolving in his grave at this moment, and using Edward Blake, one of his esteemed predecessors, as an explanation of how he is going to defend the rights of parliament and that they are the rights of the people.

This is from one of the very people who have said: "Forget the rights of parliament. Forget the rights of the people. What is important is not 700 years of parliamentary tradition, which gives the people the right, through their parliament, to have an election if confidence is lost." He says: "Forget it, Blake. Forget it, Forsey. We are coming into the House. We are going to take power at any cost." He should not refer to Blake. The words of Blake lie ill in the mouth of the Leader of the Opposition.

Speaking of the Leader of the Opposition, I also read his comments—

Mr. Foulds: Has the minister read the agreement?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There is no agreement. The member knows that. It is a gentleman's agreement. I could read further what the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk thinks about it, and I might.

In any event, let us talk for a moment about some of the things the Leader of the Opposition had to say in his participation in this debate on June 7 last. This sentence is consistent with the hypocrisy contained in his referring to Mr. Blake. He said, and I want to get it perfectly right, "I have never seen such philosophical harlotry."

When the Leader of the Opposition talked about philosophical harlotry, I thought he might be talking about his party's sudden conversion on the subject of pornography. They suddenly changed a position they had held at least as long as I have been here, two or three years ago, and suddenly became zealous advocates of some restrictions on pornography.

When the Leader of the Opposition said, "I have never seen such philosophical harlotry," I thought he might be talking about his sudden reversal on extra billing. I was sure he was talking about that. In case he has forgotten, let me remind him about extra billing. Let me remind him of his position and, to pick a member of the Liberal Party at random, the position of the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway). Let us see what he has had to say about extra billing. He says he refuses to doctor-bash. No, not the Liberals; not until it is convenient.

The member believes "the Liberals should allow some measure of opting out of the Ontario health insurance plan." That is a direct quote from the member for Renfrew North. He goes on, "Whereas I accept the doctors' argument that they must have the choice to practise in or out of the government plan, I absolutely insist the patient has the corresponding right to quality health care service at the government rate."

Let us read now the Leader of the Opposition in the Globe and Mail: "I would negotiate a way out of extra billing. We believe it creates two-price medicine. We are also facing a penalty," etc. This is from the Leader of the Opposition, who complains about philosophical harlotry.

At first I thought perhaps he was talking about extra billing or pornography, both examples of—to use his words, not mine—"philosophical harlotry" practised by the Liberal Party of Ontario. I have very little time on my hands these days but I wanted to see what else the Leader of the Opposition had to say. I was interested in a quote from the Leader of the Opposition in the throne speech debate on June 7.

He said: "We have to stop telling people to expect less. It is this kind of talk that blunts ambition and saps the spirit, because it is a desire for a better life that motivates people in a free society. We have no reason to curb our expectations." So Keith Davey wrote for him.

4:20 p.m.

Let us go back. I remembered the Liberal Party and the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) saying some things that did not exactly sit comfortably with this caution about doom and gloom, about lowering expectations.

Listen to this contribution of the member for London Centre to the budget debate in December 1981. This is from a man who says we have to stop telling people to expect less, that we have got to stop talking about blunting ambition and sapping the spirit. Here is the member: "There is a tremendous feeling we have lost our potential, that the fact we are a have-not province has impressed itself on people. A sense of depression has invaded everywhere." How about that?

Let us go on. The man who said, "Stop telling people to expect less; stop blunting ambition," says, "Ontario's industrial plant has become creaky and dusty. We have fallen behind." How can he lecture others on philosophical harlotry when he commits those sins?

I was interested further when he went on. He caught my attention the other day when he said in the throne debate, "We have had a Minister of Industry and Trade, and I am not being critical of any particular one, who has done essentially two things. He has travelled abroad selling our products on trade missions, all quite wonderful and worth while, and he has run around bailing out and trying to prop up failing industries."

I have a bit of a memory. I know my friends opposite do not and some of the new ones, I know, will want to make notes of what I am saying this afternoon for use in their caucus. I know their leader, having complained that this government bailed out and tried to prop up failing industries—

Mr. Sweeney: Just be glad your dad is not here. You have had your chance.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I want the member for Kitchener-Wilmot to listen to this. Here is the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, October 6, 1980, on the subject of Massey-Ferguson Industries Ltd. He was not complaining then that we were walking around propping up industries. The Leader of the Opposition was not up complaining about it then, perhaps because it affected his colleague's riding. My colleague the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) never tried to go both ways on the issue.

Mr. McClellan: Where is he now?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: He was elected easily.
Mr. McClellan: Why is he boycotting your speech?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I told him what I was going to say previously.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Good speech. Right on. I wrote it for him and he is reading it well.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The Minister of Labour will not believe what the member for London Centre said after complaining about propping up failing industries.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: He could say anything on any side of the issue, no surprises.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let us look at the record. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk said: "It may well be that the federal and provincial governments will be in a position to at least guarantee the financial package up to a level of between \$500 million and \$600 million. We are told by the experts this is a minimum." Of course, it ended up at \$75 million; but not to put too fine a point on it, what is \$500 million between Liberals and New Democrats? In any event, when it came to Massey-Ferguson there he was insisting on that bailout.

Let me also say that Eric Cunningham, who is no doubt kicking himself roundly these days wherever he might be found, said, "I am anxious to support Bill 48, An Act respecting Massey-Ferguson Ltd." The Liberal Party, over the objections of the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), was quite on side in propping up those industries, which the member for London Centre says we have got to stop doing.

What about White Farm Manufacturing Canada Ltd.? Was the Liberal Party opposed, to use the member for London Centre's words, to "bailing out failing industries"? Were they opposed to it? Let us quote the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk on April 1, 1982: "As a matter of high policy, it is essential." that we help out White Farm. "Anything less will in my view be inadequate in the service of the workers in this community and in the service of the industry and economy of Canada."

Let us go on to some other issues, such as getting rid of Ontario health insurance plan premiums. The member for London Centre said on April 27, 1985, "We would ease out of OHIP premiums over five years and shift the cost on to different forms of taxation." That was in 1985. Philosophical harlotry? The member for Renfrew North stated in 1983, "The OHIP increase in the 1983 budget was not out of line," and "If we want a top-notch health care system, we will have to pay for it." Imagine that.

Let us leave out a lot here. I want to talk about the civil service because the Leader of the Opposition said this last week. Listen to these high-minded words that Keith and Michael wrote for him: "Our civil servants must not become part of the political battleground; neither should they be among the casualties when there is a change." That is very high-minded. I applaud Keith for writing that.

What did he say in 1983? Of course, that was two years ago. I understand that it may not count to the Liberals; it was two years ago. What did that same Leader of the Opposition say in 1983?

Mr. Laughren: There is a statute of limitations on Liberal statements.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: For him the statute of limitations is two weeks.

The Leader of the Opposition said: "The first day on the job" as Premier, "I would ask for the resignation of every deputy minister in the government." Imagine that. These are the people who, he says on June 7, "must not become part of the political battleground; neither should they be among the casualties when there is a change."

Mr. McClellan: What does the Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) think?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It does not matter. It matters only what those guys over there think. Let us face it.

Finally, I just want to quote what the Leader of the Opposition said about the Minister of Industry and Trade, that he has done nothing except walk around on trade missions while a whole world of high technology came upon us. I want to quote this directly; I would not want to misquote him: "Both of those activities belie the fundamental changes that are going on in our society today, the move to high technology, the move to freer trade around the world and international competition."

The Leader of the Opposition wants to put out the premise that this government has simply been trying to bail out failing industries every time we bailed out an industry. Every time, without exception, he supported it, but he suggests in the speech that was written for him that this is all we have done and that we have missed the world of high technology.

Let me just refresh his memory. When it comes to moving our society towards an era of high technology, this government has an unimpeachable record. Educational microcomputers: that is a Canadian industry. The members of the New Democratic Party support that; they applauded that initiative. It is now going into our

schools. It is exactly what they have been asking for for many years.

Instead of importing educational microcomputers, when the ministry got the funding to put them into the schools, the then Minister of Industry-I happen to know him very well-got together with the Minister of Education of the day and said, "Let us have them made in Canada." Over the objections of IBM and other major international companies we arranged for those educational microcomputers, that high technology, to be made in Canada. They are being made in Canada in the great riding of Leeds, thanks only to the steps taken by this government, the government the Leader of the Opposition thinks has only been bailing out industries-he supported them all-instead of dealing with high technology.

What about the microelectronics centre in Ottawa? I was in this House when his members were standing up and begging that it go to their riding. What about the automotive parts technology centre, that high-tech centre?

Mr. Laughren: The government has more seats than anybody else.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The colleagues of the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) were begging for it to go to Windsor, and he knows it; so were the members of the Liberal Party.

Mr. McClellan: Everybody is grateful to the Tories.

4:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I would say that only about 37 per cent of the public is grateful.

The resource machinery centre-

Mr. Sweeney: All six of them went to Tory ridings.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Gee, not any more.

My friend the member for Kitchener-Wilmot suggested they all went to Tory ridings, but let us just have a look at it.

The automotive parts centre is essentially in St. Catharines riding.

Mr. Sweeney: It is in the Honourable Robert Welch's part of the riding.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Oh, excuse me that we have a member in the area. I apologize for that problem, but I have to tell him that when these centres were handed out the majority of seats were held by Tories. Imagine that.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Kitchener-Wilmot has carried on enough.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: What about the resource machinery centre in Sudbury. Excuse me,

we have one of the seats there. I understand the problem. We have one seat. I am sorry, it is in part of the riding of the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon).

Let the record show the member for Kitchener-Wilmot would have preferred that the centre not go to Sudbury because there is no Liberal in the area; or is it part of the arrangement that the New Democratic Party gets one centre for every centre the Liberals give out? Is that the new arrangement? Tell us which way it goes.

Interjections

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I know the honourable member would want to be reminded of the recent computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing centre for the automotive industry, which was put in the great city of Windsor. The member has to go to caucus. It was in all the newspapers.

Mr. Sweeney: CAD/CAM is in Cambridge, a Tory riding.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I would say to the member for Kitchener-Wilmot if he sets up his new ministry properly, he can get a clipping service and he can know what is happening outside of Kitchener. I would remind the member there is a vote tomorrow at 5:45 p.m. It was in all the papers. Show up.

Let us go on to all the other initiatives we have taken in the high-tech area: the robot rental program—which is something those guys should understand, given the deal they just made with the NDP—the 4,000 computers to be placed in low-income neighbourhoods across Ontario for young people; the innovation centres at 22 colleges and universities; the enterprise centres; and the automotive parts investment fund.

There simply is no jurisdiction that has done more for high technology in the past five years than the government of Ontario, this government and the Progressive Conservative Party. That is a fact.

If the Leader of the Opposition wants to make other allegations with regard to the performance of this government in terms of the industrial future of this province, let him stand up and detail it. Let him not give these speeches that were written by Keith Davey and friends, suggesting there are suddenly some high-flown ideals which only he shares, which he has no details about and no specifics in terms of policy. Of course, they were not raised or dictated by the NDP, so how could he?

Let him not stand up and suggest we have not got a record. If he wants to suggest that he would have done differently, that the record might be better if he were there, let him do so. With respect, it is wrong and out of character with the kind of new image they are trying to build for him for him to suggest that nothing has been done, that we have only gone around "propping up failing industries," to use his words.

I want to add that I really, seriously have watched closely the words of all of the parties over the past couple of weeks. None of us knows what the future holds in this assembly.

Some hon. members: Oh, yes, we do.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: And some members will not be here for too much of that future.

Let me remind members that when we look carefully at the words of both parties to the now famous agreement, it is quite clear that it is not meant to be anything truly enforceable. The leader of the third party can say all he wishes about holding the Liberal Party of Ontario to account to live up to the promises made in the famous piece of paper, but it is also quite clear that he acknowledges he has no remedy and no relief against that. There is no action he can take if they do not live up to it.

Juxtapose that to the admitted words of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. Let me read it. This is a panelist, who comments, "There may not be weasel words. What we are trying to get at is the fact that there is a loophole, that there are loopholes sprinkled through the accord." He then says, "Robert, in your hands are all sorts of loopholes. You can cut and run."

The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk responds, "It is interesting that you picked out the phrase 'in a framework of fiscal responsibility"—that is part of the agreement—"because the right of the New Democratic—"

Mr. McClellan: Does the minister object to fiscal responsibility? Let him stand there and say he is opposed to fiscal responsibility.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The new alliance is the double-A alliance. I guarantee it. It will not be a triple-A alliance; it will be a double-A alliance.

Mr. Mancini: The government lost it last year.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Really? Call New York. I will give the member the phone number. He can have his new driver drive him to New York. I can tell him where to get baseball tickets.

Listen to what the new Treasurer, double-A Nixon, said with regard to the agreement. "It is

interesting that you picked out the phrase 'in a framework of fiscal responsibility."

I say to the members of the House, I predict it is that phrase the Liberal Party of Ontario will use this fall to call an election and say the deal is off because they could not live up to the demands of the New Democratic Party "in a framework of fiscal responsibility."

Mr. McClellan: Wait and see.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Just listen to what he says. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk continues, "Because the right of the New Democratic Party to vote against the budget bills, in our mind..." Imagine this. I say to Edward Blake and his ghost, wherever it is, imagine the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk acknowledging the right of the NDP to vote against budget bills.

He says: "The right of the NDP to vote against budget bills"—it is kind of him to give them that right—"in our mind left the new government somewhat high and dry. Therefore, we balance that with the 'framework of fiscal responsibility' phrase, which simply meant that in the unlikely event our NDP supporters for this limited period of time are not prepared to go along with what we considered fiscally necessary, we would be able to say, 'Well, then we cannot proceed with the areas of the programs that this was designed to pay for.'"

P.S.: Goodnight, Robert. Goodnight, Bob Rae and friends.

Mr. McClellan: It means one has to pay for what one does. Is that such a big surprise to Mr. Deficit Financing over there?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Get that on the record. The next member for Fort York says one has to pay for what one wants to do. It is interesting he should introduce that concept from the NDP in a discussion about philosophical harlotry. It fits perfectly.

Mr. Sweeney: Pay as you go.

Mr. McClellan: Yes, that is pretty strange for a Conservative, is it not? One has to pay for what one does. It is going to be a nice experiment.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We will just compare the double-A budget of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk to the budget this government introduced last May, which reduced the deficit.

Mr. McClellan: What is the deficit this year?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I understand the member will not be concerned about it because the leader of the NDP has already said, as has the Leader of the Opposition, that he has no particular hangup over deficits. I understand

that. I also understand the leader of the NDP, when asked about the cost of the famous accord, said, "Oh, shucks, we do not know. No one totalled it up."

Mr. McClellan: What about the minister's \$2-billion throne speech?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We heard what the member said.

I want to remind my colleagues in the NDP, so many of whom I am fond of, personally if not politically-at least two-that when the fall comes and they are wondering what they are going to do now-.

Mr. McClellan: I think I will run in St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member is welcome to come in. I accept the challenge. In fact, given the deal they have made, and if they continue to make those deals, we can have the best two out of three.

4:40 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: Back to the speech from the throne.

Mr. McClellan: If we have an election this fall, I will run in St. Andrew-St. Patrick. How is that?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I say to the member for Bellwoods, they know him too well. It is a good association, and I think the member can get the nomination from the NDP; they are very selective. However, given the candidates that have run against me, perhaps I should say they are not all that selective.

Those words will live for ever in the NDP caucus. One day they will be engraved over the portals in the same way as, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." This one will read, "In a framework of fiscal responsibility, we died." That is what is going to happen.

I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, there will be the day when with much regret, with words written by everyone from Michael Kirby to the member for Renfrew North, the leader of the then government may rise in this House and say, "I beg to inform the House that I have had to visit the Lieutenant Governor here in October 1985 and with much regret and sadness say, 'So long, red friends.'" He is going to say, "So long, Ross," "So long, Mike" and "So long, Bob."

He is going to say, "We wanted to keep the deal, but given what happened"—and I will use the words of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, members will like this quote. "Suppose they refuse to vote for any rational budgetary program made up of specific bills." It is up to the

Liberals. They are going to tell the NDP that they have refused to vote for what they consider to be a "rational budgetary program." Those are not my words. They are the words of the person who thinks he is going to be the Treasurer of this province.

I predict that, with golden words laced with crocodile tears, with much regret, the member for London Centre will stand up and say, "Last evening the NDP refused to vote for some very rational budgetary items on specific bills." I remind the member for Bellwoods that is not what the agreement said. It said it will only fall on the general budget resolution.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It did not say that. I have read the agreement.

Mr. McClellan: Read it again.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If I am right, does the member promise to run in St. Andrew-St. Patrick?

Mr. Kerrio: Talk about it, Larry, but do not bet on it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: My friend should bet

One day this fall, just after this House has been dissolved, just after the NDP has been dissolved and just after the short-term Liberal government has been dissolved, I will have the opportunity of walking out into the hall and saying to the media:

"I told them on June 17 that this minor matter of a rational budgetary program was not supported by the NDP and therefore 'in a framework of fiscal responsibility' the Liberal Party of Ontario, having been in office for three and a half months or four months out of 42 years, finds it necessary to take the advice of Keith Davey and Martin Goldfarb, to go to the people and to say to Bob Rae: 'Thanks for everything. We'll see you later.'"

Mr. Poirier: I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Deputy Speaker, who currently occupies the chair, upon his election to his prime position. I hope he will transmit my good wishes to the Speaker and salute the Deputy Chairman of the committees.

I want to congratulate my fellow members, the other 124, whether they have been here a long time or whether they are recent additions to this House, as I am. I also want to salute the staff, who work very hard to follow the debates of all 125 members.

I wish to take this opportunity to salute the previous member for Prescott-Russell, Don Boudria. After the three short years during which

Don was here, I saw in the last by-election and in the last general election that people appreciated the work Don had done as the member for Prescott-Russell. When I look at the results he obtained in the last federal election, the largest Liberal majority across Canada, I think it is testimony to the fact that the people appreciated his work when he was a member of the Legislature for three years at Oueen's Park.

I would like to thank the electors of Prescott-Russell and to assure them I will serve them quite well, even though it is a hard duty to represent Prescott-Russell at Queen's Park, 500 kilometres away, believe me.

I am proud to represent Prescott-Russell for many reasons. The riding of Prescott-Russell has been the historical gateway to Ontario via the Ottawa River. In 1610, 375 years ago, Étienne Brûlé was the first European to come to Ontario via the Ottawa River. He was followed by Samuel de Champlain, and my ancestors developed the seigneurie de Longueuil in my riding.

I am a fourth-generation resident of Prescott-Russell, and I am proud to be in a riding where the English-speaking and French-speaking populations get along very well. They have an excellent relationship. The riding is 68 per cent francophone, and the member for Prescott-Russell has the responsibility of making sure that the rights of the francophone minority in Ontario get equal and fair treatment along with those of the anglophone population of Ontario. I am also quite proud to represent a riding that has such an excellent rural and urban mix of population.

Je suis fier d'être un des huit membres franco-ontariens élus au 33e Parlement. Je suis fier d'avoir été élu en cette année du 375e anniversaire du passage d'Étienne Brûlé en Ontario, en ce 75e anniversaire de l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario, en ce 10e anniversaire du dévoilement du drapeau franco-ontarien et en 102 ans depuis l'élection du premier franco-ontarien à l'Assemblée législative. Je suis fier de suivre dans les pas de Honoré Robillard, ce premier, élu ici en 1883, dans les pas d'Eugène Alfred Evanturel. Je suis très heureux.

I sincerely hope that my 124 colleagues and I can have some constructive debates that will lead to action and not just words, that we will have maximum co-operation among members of all parties, that we will concentrate on what we have in common to serve better the people of Ontario and that these debates in the House will be conducted in a respectful environment so that when they come and sit in the visitors' galleries

these people, who are our employers, will be proud to see us as their employees debate matters of importance to Ontario.

Concerning the speech from the throne, I feel as if I have been a witness to déjvu. We have had 42 years of a gulf between words and actions, especially concerning eastern Ontario and Prescott-Russell in particular.

The economy, particularly in eastern Ontario, has fallen victim to a laissez-faire attitude. There have been no real policies for effective regional and economic development. We have been unable to comprehend the different regional needs when they are far removed from Toronto. Believe me, we know; the statistics are there to show it. There have been no fair policies to share investment, to reinvest locally the taxes collected from the hardworking workers of Prescott-Russell. I am sure my colleagues from northern Ontario have suffered the same fate.

4:50 p.m.

Let us take a look at agriculture. Prescott-Russell was once the Ontario capital for cheddar cheese. We have gone from more than 100 cheese factories to a point where we now have only one left. Thanks to the government's policies, Plan Laitier Co-op St. Albert threatens not to be there in the near future. I know what I am talking about. I did my university thesis on the late Lefaivre cheese factory. I have had a chance to study this very well.

The agricultural sector is in a state of grave urgency thanks to the government policies of the past 42 years or, more precisely, the lack of government policies.

I do not need to discuss much the levels of bankruptcies, especially in Prescott-Russell. There are no long-term loan policies. There are nice words but I am talking about action now.

The agricultural sector is going through nothing less than a revolution. What did the government do in the past? Of all provincial budgets, it has invested one of the lowest percentages in agriculture; it is around one per cent. It is some \$335 million when \$603 million has been collected from tobacco taxes. It has allowed the agricultural sector to lose its traditional importance in cabinet. One can tell that by where the name of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Stevenson) is on the list of ministers.

In eastern Ontario, and in Prescott-Russell in particular, we have the lowest rate of drainable agricultural land that has been drained. What did this government do to allow us to catch up? It allowed the percentage rate of applicable loans to

be reduced. Our hog producers, broiler chicken producers, beef producers and others are now facing bankruptcy.

In regard to the environment, I am very proud to have obtained a degree in environmental studies from the University of Waterloo in 1972. I worked with the Department of the Environment as a federal and provincial project coordinator with the inland waters and lands directorates. I have been observing the Progressive Conservative government's performance over the years. There is only one word that comes to mind, dismal, in relation to environmental issues. It has allowed continued pollution well above respectable standards. It has failed to take action against Inco and Ontario Hydro. It has a deplorable record when it comes to the control of waste dump sites, polychlorinated biphenyls and water quality. These are non-negotiable items. We are talking about natural resources.

I look at the Ontario car licence plate. It says, "Keep it beautiful." Thanks to the Progressive Conservative government's legacy, we perhaps plan to change that to say, "Let us clean it up."

Talking about roads, I come from Alfred, on Highway 17, which because of the past 42 years has been permitted to have the nickname "killer strip." I have stopped counting, but I have known more than 15 people, friends, relatives, neighbours and acquaintances, who have been killed because the PC government has refused to take action to give eastern Ontario some decent roads so that people can live. All the time it has delayed, more and more people have been killed on the killer strip, Canada's most dangerous highway, thanks to the lack of policies for decent roads.

It has allowed dangerous situations to exist. I look at the Queensway. It took seven years to repair the Queensway. What is happening? Is the government trying to get into the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest time required to repair roads? Being from eastern Ontario, I know this situation would never have been allowed elsewhere. The state of the roads is degraded and has been no boon to our tourism industry.

To turn to social and community services, I have to say that, judging by the people who have come to see me in my office, there are some very serious cases and no real care and respect by this government for the needs of the ordinary citizens of Ontario.

Health: can any government weigh dollars against the beds necessary so that people who need life-saving surgery can go in and have access to it? I believe that yes, we have to cut the

deficit and have sound government, but not at the expense of lives. Let us go see the people who have lost dear ones because they could not get access to a decent bed. Northern Ontario friends are going through a similar experience.

When I look at this government's policies for giving services in both official languages in Ontario, I think it is a shame. When people come in and speak in French when there is an emergency, it is not the time to plead that there is no way to offer bilingual services in health institutions.

Tourism: I helped to create the Prescott and Russell Tourism Association, and at that time we were telling the government it should place an emphasis on attracting tourists from Quebec and New York. Was I not surprised when I saw in its speech from the throne that it was planning to attract tourists from Quebec and New York? Why? This is one of the reasons I said it was déjà vu. It has neglected eastern Ontario and Prescott-Russell in particular. I look at the tax on hotel accommodations and on low-cost meals; I look at a time when we have a profitable advantage in our dollar for people from the United States, and there are no global policies to go and get that market.

Housing: How many dossiers have I seen on people in deplorable housing conditions in Prescott and Russell? There is no reason that, in 1985, Ontarians should have to have the kind of housing I have seen so far.

Education: This government has allowed the quality of education to go down the drain in Ontario. It is threatening valuable programs, such as adult education, with its cuts. Thousands and thousands of people in Prescott and Russell were taking adult education programs, and the government has cut the funds for them. Congratulations.

Young people are not qualified for today's needs, thanks to this government's legacy. I co-presided some of the school and work task force's public hearings across Ontario last term, and I know for a fact from the testimony given, that young people cannot cope with the needs of young people today. Last year more than 30,000 specialized jobs went without takers in Ontario, which spends all that money on education. I find that an incredible shame and an incredible waste.

I have personally hired many young people during the past 15 years, and I know that even when I tried to hire the best, they had some very definite weaknesses in their education. A lot of people in the education dossier have also said the reputation of Ontario graduates has diminished

over the years because of government cutbacks. Young people are our next generation's leaders. We cannot waste that generation. We need to have them follow in our footsteps.

En ce qui a trait aux francophones, le record du gouvernement conservateur en matière d'éducation, là c'est un des plus vibrants exemples du gouffre entre la parole et le geste. Pourquoi a-t-il permis que nous soyons obligés de passer à travers les inoubliables, regrettables et nombreuses luttes scolaires pour obtenir ce dont on a besoin? C'est une preuve de leur manque de leadership dans ce dossier.

Ils ne sont pas des leaders, ils sont des suiveurs. Ils ont toujours donné deux messages différents: un message aux anglophones, un message aux francophones. Trop de peur de présenter le même discours, le même message aux deux groupes linguistiques. On regarde les statistiques et l'assimilation galopante en dépit des belles paroles. Ce ne sont pas ce que les francophones veulent, ce dont nous avons besoin.

Je n'ai pas peur de faire la comparaison avec nos collègues anglo-québécois. En 1980, quand eux ont fait la comparaison de la situation des Anglo-Québécois et des Franco-Ontariens, ce sont eux qui ont décidé de venir nous donner un appui parce qu'ils se sont rendus compte que les Franco-Ontariens avaient beaucoup moins que les Anglo-Québécois, en dépit du mythe qu'on entend des fois dans la communauté.

5 p.m.

I hope that one day soon we will have electronic Hansard so that when my colleagues and I give our speeches, and even when francophile anglophones give their speeches in one of Canada's official languages, the other group can understand and appreciate fully what is being said. I hope and I know this coming government will offer much better translation services so that we can serve our constituents a lot better.

Ontario needs a real policy of respect and equality between anglophones and francophones, one message for all Ontarians no matter who they are, where they are or what they represent. We also need equality between men and women, and I hope that in the near future, with 125 members in here, the women of Ontario will have much better representation in the House, which they deserve.

In 1969 the federal government presented the Official Languages Act. We are talking now 16 years later. How many more years would we have had to wait with that government across the

aisle? Franco-Ontarian rights must, with the shortest possible delay, be enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This essential step will thus give these rights an official status, and only then will we have a firm guarantee for the future. These rights and freedoms are not disposable principles; they must be written down and secured.

En résumé, je répète, ces droits doivent être encadrés dans la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés, car une telle mesure non seulement leur conférerait un statut officiel mais leur accorderait une garantie pour l'avenir.

Je représente fièrement Prescott-Russell et c'est pour ça que je me suis présenté en politique. À ce moment-ci, je dis en ce qui a trait au discours du trône que je suis totalement d'accord avec mon chef et mon parti de faire un vote de non-confiance parce qu'il y a trop eu un grand gouffre entre la parole et le geste durant les 42 dernières années.

Mr. Lupusella: I am really pleased to rise and participate in this historic debate in relation to feelings that members of this Legislature have about the speech from the throne. For me it is a great opportunity at least to review more or less the political activities of a government that is in the process of falling.

I would like to compare the performance of the Conservative political regime in its 42 years in Ontario with that of the Roman Empire. If we can take a few minutes to go through the course of history, when the Romans were in the splendour of their economic and social development, when they were so sure of winning wars across Europe and in different nations and they were able to accumulate goods as a result of winning wars, they became inactive and their empire was shaking a little bit.

If members know the history, the Romans were able to regain their empire. It is appropriate at this time to say to the Conservative members that tomorrow, when they fall as a result of this vote of no confidence, which will be supported by the Liberals and the New Democratic Party, I hope they will never again in the history of Ontario be able to regain political power.

There are concrete and open reasons why the voters in Ontario have lost faith in a Conservative government that has been in power so long it has lost the reality of the people's needs and problems. They were unable to respond to the particular economic and social changes across Ontario. At least on May 2 they were able to study the political results and they came to the same conclusion as well.

In that respect, the speech from the throne has been more or less a hypocritical approach used by the Conservatives to tell the voters of this province that they are extremely concerned about their problems and that they are able and willing to make political changes in relation to immediate problems affecting the people across Ontario.

Based on the past performance of the Tory government, we know the speech from the throne was a white paper that was based on the principles of tokenism and political inaction. The wise position taken by the New Democratic Party, which has been joined by the Liberals, to oppose this type of political inactivity coming from the Conservatives is appropriate and will be appropriate tomorrow when the Tories will be defeated completely.

I followed with great interest the ministerial statement delivered today by the Minister of Labour in relation to workers' compensation reform, which is more or less the implementation of Bill 101. We had an opportunity today on this side of the House, through questions raised by my leader, to understand the terrible delay that has taken place in relation to the implementation of the principle of the extension of funds to the separate schools. The same delay has taken place in the implementation of Bill 101, which is workers' compensation reform.

I do not understand why the Tory approach has always been the same; namely, to delay the implementation of a particular policy affecting people across Ontario. If I can relate the same analogy, of the extension of funds to the separate schools, to the issue of workers' compensation reform, the procedure has been the same.

In 1981 the Tory government was able to listen at least to the concerns of injured workers across Ontario. They came out with a specific position that reform was appropriate. The act per se was supposed to be reformed because it had not taken into consideration the immediate needs of injured workers across Ontario.

They initiated a long study. They appointed Professor Weiler to take a look at the wideranging ramifications of the problem for the Workers' Compensation Board. Then the government formed its own study, the white paper on workers' compensation. Then a committee of the Legislature was formed to review the ramifications of Professor Weiler's report and the white paper.

There followed a one-year study, recommendations and dissenting minority reports drafted by the Liberals and the New Democratic Party. Again, the Tory government was unable to

respond to the problems that had been incorporated into the dissenting reports of the Liberals and the New Democratic Party. They came out with a law that has been described by injured workers across the province as inadequate—Bill 101.

5:10 p.m.

After the last provincial election I thought for a moment, based on the assurance we got from the previous Minister of Labour, that implementation of Bill 101 would take place immediately, around April, and the core of Bill 101, which was implementation of the appeals tribunal system, the independent corporate board and the independent medical review board that was supposed to be appointed, would take place some time around July 1985. Today, however, I heard from the Minister of Labour that the second phase of implementation of Bill 101 would take place some time around October 1985.

When we passed Bill 101, I was under the impression that implementation of this administrative procedure, which would be implementation of an independent appeal tribunal, an independent corporate board and an independent medical review panel, would be the cornerstone of the bill. Without the implementation of these three items, I do not think we can talk about WCB reform.

The present Minister of Labour, if I may send him a message, is confusing two separate issues: implementation of Bill 101, which is the workers' compensation reform per se and which incorporates those three specific and important items, and implementation of the second phase of the reform of the Workers' Compensation Board, which is the process of restructuring injured workers' pensions in relation to the principle of the clinical rating system and other items that have been emphasized in this ministerial statement. The second phase is completely different and should be viewed in a completely different way from implementation of Bill 101 per se.

In that respect, the minister is confusing the work that has been done very effectively by the Liberals and the New Democratic Party as well as the government's position in relation to the whole principle of restructuring the board. He should go back and read the position taken by previous ministers and the ministerial statements delivered before the last provincial election was called.

I do not understand why the government is so persistent in using an approach that does not work on behalf of the people. They are so persistent that they were unable to get the message of May 2, 1985.

The government has accused the NDP of posturing in the political process of this province by forming a different type of political alliance with another party. I do not understand why the NDP was not supposed to choose another party or why the NDP was supposed to continue an old line of support with the Conservative Party. I do not understand these criteria.

Minority governments in Europe are working very effectively. I cite the example of Italy, which has been governed by minority governments for the past 25 years. No party has lost its political identity over there, and they have been able to pursue a government agenda in a very effective way using written documents similar to the one signed by the NDP and the Liberals.

Today we have ample opportunity to accuse the Tories for their political inaction of the past, but the Liberals will have an opportunity to run the store of this province, at least for two years, unless they sit down and renegotiate another political agenda that should be signed by the two parties again. That is what minority governments are. It is premature to advance political hypotheses of what might happen in two years' time.

The speech from the throne was silent on an item affecting thousands of citizens across the province. My mind goes to a principle of reform which was supposed to be enunciated in the speech from the throne, that is, property tax reform. During the last provincial election, I had an opportunity to go around my riding talking to people who were complaining about this problem affecting their livelihood. I talked to senior citizens who are paying too much money on taxes. The government is unable to respond except with the principle of the property tax grant. The amount of \$500 per year is inadequate. We should tackle this problem from a different tangent so this problem will be settled once and for all.

Property tax is an important item because it is connected with the funding of education. A lot of people, especially in Metropolitan Toronto, have been penalized as a result of this process. The principle of reform is overdue. I hope the Liberal government will take these notes into consideration because they will be part of my political attack in the months to come.

In the last few months we have heard about the unfairness and inequality of education in the province, underfunding, the extension of funds, and about a lot of people being pro and con on the implementation issue. The theme of that approach should rely on the principle of property tax reform. I would like to give a specific

example. Half of the money people are paying in property tax goes to fund educational costs. Members are very well aware that people who are working are supposed to pay taxes at the end of the year through income tax. A portion of that money is allocated by Ontario to fund education costs.

We are faced with the worst scenario: if the parents choose a Catholic school for their children, they are supposed to pay an extra fee, which has been set in the area of \$800 a year. How much in taxes are they supposed to pay? Many people have been paying taxes in a very unfair and unjust way.

Another issue to be tackled is that where, if people have modernized their homes, their assessments have been going up as well. For many years, the Tory government has been committing an injustice to people in the province. On this side of the House, we view housing as a basic right. It is not a luxury. The government of the day, since the Tories formed the government 42 years ago, have been stealing money from people who should have this basic right, to live in a decent house.

5:20 p.m.

When people modernized their houses, added a new veranda or expanded because their families grew, their assessments went up. I am accusing the Tories today, but I hope the Liberals are getting the message because it will be part of my future political platform to make sure some sense of fairness on that item will take place in the near future.

I know the Tories have been stubborn on that issue. I spoke many times in this Legislature and brought to the attention of the Minister of Revenue of the time that something should be done in relation to the problem, but no positive response came from the opposite side of the House.

I hope property tax reform will be on the minds of members of the new Liberal government. This problem is deeply felt by people and the voters across Ontario. We need a new restructuring process across the province.

Another thing I would mention is that in 1981, when the Tories gained a majority government in Ontario, the then Minister of Revenue sent out assessors, especially in Metropolitan Toronto, to review the assessment value of people's property. In different ridings such as mine, the assessment went up by 20 and 30 per cent in most instances and also reached 50 per cent.

We had an assurance from the Conservative government that market value assessment was

not supposed to be implemented in Metropolitan Toronto. I really do not understand why the Minister of Revenue in 1981 and subsequent years sent out assessors in Metropolitan Toronto to implement the policy of increasing the assessment value, basing it on market value assessment, a policy which has been rejected by the Conservative ministers in the past.

The new government should put an end to the particular injustice committed by the Tories and review the assessment of the people, instead of saying: "That is your assessment. If you are not happy about it, you have an opportunity to appeal."

This pattern has been a common Tory political line. Even the Workers' Compensation Board is telling workers: "You have a 10 per cent disability award," which is very minimal. "If you are not happy, you can go through the appeal procedure and appeal the percentage of your disability."

The same approach has been used for people who have been overtaxed on their properties and the same political message has been sent to those people: "If you are not happy about it, we have an appeal tribunal. Go there and appeal." Most of the time there is no way one is able to win an appeal like that.

The Conservative government betrayed its own general statement in 1981, which was a government policy that the market value assessment would not be implemented in Metropolitan Toronto. But they did it through the back door, not from the front door, and people are paying the price for that. I think the other components I emphasized just a few minutes ago should be taken into consideration. The Liberals should put an end to this practice which has been in effect in Ontario for 42 years.

I am delighted about tomorrow, not to have to listen to criticism coming from the opposite side of the House that our deal with the Liberals was unfair. Why was it unfair? Why are we supposed to support the Conservatives of this province when they are unable to commit themselves to practical and concrete reforms on behalf of our people? Let us give the credit to another party, in our particular case, the Liberal Party. If they are unable to deliver, then we will see what is going to happen.

The benefit of doubt has been misused by officials of the Workers' Compensation Board in analysing claims on behalf of people. In political terms the benefit of the doubt should be given to the Liberal Party, to find out what kind of political performance and political leverage they

are going to have, to take into consideration the needs of the people across Ontario.

With these remarks I will end my short speech. I hope I will have future opportunities to stand up and judge the political attitude coming from the Liberals. I am very happy to participate in this historic defeat of the Tories in Ontario. Tomorrow will be a great day for voters across the province because they can sense reforms for many years to come. I hope the Liberals will not forget May 2 when the message came from the voters across Ontario that they really need changes. I hope these changes will take place as soon as possible.

Mr. Davis: I am pleased to be given the opportunity to join my colleagues in debating the speech from the throne.

As the recently elected member for Scarborough Centre, I would be remiss if I failed to express my appreciation for the work undertaken by my predecessor and friend Frank Drea. Through 14 years of service, his concern for and commitment to the constituents of Scarborough Centre was never-ending. I know his efforts will make the task before me that much easier. In addition, I am sure his unique and positive contributions to political life in Ontario will be missed by all members.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the people of Scarborough Centre for placing their confidence in me and in the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario. I am honoured to be given the chance to act as their representative at Queen's Park.

Scarborough Centre, in my opinion, is one of the best ridings in the province. People with diverse interests, backgrounds and cultures live within its boundaries. I believe they clearly reflect the concerns and hopes of the people of Ontario. I would like the people of Scarborough Centre to know I will do my best as their representative to listen to their concerns and assist them in finding and developing solutions.

I would like to bring to the attention of all members an important event that will be occurring in my riding in the very near future. It is the Up with People show being presented by the Scarborough International Youth Year task force. It is being held at the Scarborough Civic Centre on Sunday, June 23, at two o'clock and will feature an international touring group of young entertainers. I am sure it will be a most enjoyable and enlightening afternoon. I would like to extend my personal invitation to all members to come out and join us in this celebration of youth.

There is a lot of concern in my riding for the future of our young people. In particular, there is a concern regarding their employment prospects. Consequently, I was pleased by the announcement made in the throne speech. In my mind, one of the problems that has prevented many young people from taking advantage of the opportunities available has been the lack of a co-ordinated program delivery system. In turn, this has created confusion and a lack of awareness.

By restating its commitment to a Ministry of Skills Development, the government has taken a major step in resolving this outstanding problem. This new ministry will be able to co-ordinate and promote all programs for youth to ensure that our young people are getting the best assistance possible. In addition to this initiative, the announcement of another \$100 million for employment and training programs, many of which are directed towards youth, will greatly improve employment prospects.

5:30 p.m.

This government has demonstrated that it places a high priority on assisting the young people of Ontario. I am proud of the accomplishments made to date and I am confident the government's continuing commitment will enable us to meet the challenges still to come.

Another concern within my riding which reflects its diverse nature is the care and the assistance for our senior citizens. As the size of our senior citizen population grows, it only follows that government assistance must also expand. The throne speech clearly indicates that this government has every intention of fulfilling its duties in that regard. The appointment of a minister for the elderly will, as in the case of youth services, permit the government to administer programs for our senior citizens in a co-ordinated manner. This will contribute significantly to the development and implementation of a comprehensive and integrated plan for a wide variety of community based services.

It is my opinion that our senior citizens can make an important and valuable contribution to our community. As such, I am very supportive of the programs outlined in the throne speech which will permit seniors to remain within the community and assist them to participate fully in community activities.

I know my constituents will also welcome the initiatives that this government will undertake to assist tenants and would-be home owners. There is a large number of tenants in Scarborough Centre. The commitment to hold rent increases to four per cent, as well as the creation of

\$400-million rental supply fund, will provide these residents with adequate, affordable accommodation. I am very pleased to see the reintroduction of a first-time home owner's assistance program. In conjunction with many young families in my riding, I will be looking forward to the release of the details regarding this initiative.

I believe the residents of Scarborough Centre signalled on May 2 that they still have confidence in the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario. It is clear they realize that this province has been well served by a Progressive Conservative government. It has provided the people of Ontario with the lowest unemployment rates in Canada, the fastest-growing job market in Canada, the lowest per capita debt in Canada, the fastest-growing and strongest economy in Canada and a triple-A credit rating.

I am almost convinced that a prerequisite for membership in the Liberal Party is the inability to add and subtract. This is further demonstrated by its recent enunciations against the present government of Ontario. By its calculation two thirds of the people in Ontario did not vote for the Progressive Conservatives on May 2, implying that two thirds voted for the Liberals. However, by my calculations an equal two thirds of Ontario's electorate indicated on May 2 they would have no confidence whatsoever in a Liberal government and signalled their continuing support of the government by electing more members from the Progressive Conservative Party than from any other.

However, we continue to hear the hue and cry from the opposition, as well as the press, that the people of Ontario voted for change on May 2. In my view, this is nothing but political rhetoric. If we were to expand on their rather peculiar brand of logic, one can only conclude that when the Ontario electorate returned the Conservatives to majority government in 1981, they had in reality voted against the Conservatives, they had voted for change.

I know this is difficult to follow for many members except those who are card-carrying Liberals and their counterparts on the other side, but there is a method in their madness. The reason the Liberals would believe the people of Ontario voted for change is that almost 56 per cent of the electorate voted for another party. Therefore, according to the Liberal way of thinking, the people of Ontario did not intend us to have a majority at all. In fact, they did not even intend for us to form the government.

I believe it is time that someone should enlighten the opposition about how our system of government operates. Contrary to the beliefs of those who have attended the Peterson school of logic and higher mathematics, it has always been my understanding that it is irrelevant what percentage of popular vote a party can capture. What counts is the total number of seats won by each party.

The reality is that the Ontario electorate returned the Progressive Conservatives with the largest number of seats and placed its confidence in us to lead a minority government. In fact, that is the principle the opposition parties agreed to in the minority governments of 1975 and 1977. There was no hue and cry then that the voters had voted for change. Indeed, the members of the opposition parties agreed to the basic principles of our parliamentary system that they have now abandoned.

It appears the New Democratic Party also believes in mathematical wizardry.

The member for York South (Mr. Rae) can stay. I have not finished.

Mr. Rae: I am not leaving.

Mr. Davis: That is evident by their stated intention and determination to inflict their will, their philosophy and their ideas upon the people of Ontario. I am talking about a party that won 20 per cent of the seats in this Legislature and yet somehow has translated this into a mandate to govern. However enthusiastic the members of the third party may be and no matter how hard they try to rationalize their motives, I believe the Ontario electorate has made it clear it is not interested in, nor does it want the New Democratic Party as the next government of Ontario. Nevertheless, the third party has chosen to ignore this fact and has set itself up to govern with some assistance from its Liberal comrades.

The members of the official opposition may protest and claim it is they who will form the next government of Ontario, but in truth, should events transpire to give the opportunity, they will be a government in name only. It is already down on paper for all to see who will really be calling the shots.

The historical alliance between the third party and the official opposition is unique. Each of the parties has entered this deal to further its own political fortunes with little regard for the concerns and desires of the people of Ontario. As it has become increasingly apparent to all of us, the Liberals are desperate to seize power. It is not only the Liberal Party of Ontario that is so desperate. It may be an unpleasant thought for members of the opposition, but the truth is there is not one Liberal government left in any

province at this moment. Consequently, they have in my opinion sold out their principles to the third party for the one chance to form a government.

In my opinion, the motive that has compelled the New Democrats to enter this agreement is basically the same as the Liberals, namely, self-preservation. Their insistence that the deal include fundamental changes to the nature of this Legislature, so that the government can no longer be held accountable to the people of Ontario, demonstrates who they are prepared to put first, and it is not the people of this province. Which party will derive the greatest benefit or the greatest loss from this unique deal remains to be seen, but it is apparent the real losers could well be the people of Ontario in this Charlie McCarthy-Edgar Bergen alliance.

5:40 p.m.

I have mentioned that the people of Ontario voted on May 2 for a minority government led by the Progressive Conservative Party, and we have responded in good faith. The proposals and initiatives announced in the throne speech clearly reflect the concerns and interests of Ontario residents from all sides of the political spectrum. It is a document that deserves serious consideration. One can say only that if the Liberal leopard can change its spots on extra billing, so can the Conservative lion make necessary changes to respond to the needs of Ontarians.

Î point out it is no disgrace to acknowledge when we are wrong and to make the necessary changes in response to a changing social climate.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The member sounds like Bill Davis.

Mr. Davis: If I am here as long as he was, I will be happy. What is unfortunate for the people of Ontario is that the minds of the opposition members were closed even before the speech was presented.

It is a foregone conclusion in the ranks of the opposition that the Liberal Party will defeat this government at the conclusion of these debates. I cannot argue with its right to do so. However, I believe the people of Ontario will be rendered a grave disservice should the Liberals and the New Democratic Party be given a chance to implement the terms of their alliance, which I would entitle The NDP Geppetto and Liberal Pinocchio show.

If the Liberals are so confident they have been given a clear mandate to govern by the Ontario electorate then they should be prepared to let their government stand or fall on the strength of proposals and initiatives they will introduce to

this House. Anything less will demonstrate to me a clear lack of leadership, conviction and political will and, most important, a total disregard for the rights of the people of Ontario.

I support the initiatives of the throne speech for its response to the concerns of the people of the province. As well, I do not mind stealing from the opposition people, just as they steal from us. However, the implementation of such policies are imperative for the wellbeing of the people of this province. I hope that before the final vote on the throne speech, all members of this Legislature will seriously consider and evaluate their responsibilities to the residents of Ontario.

It is incumbent upon the members to ensure that these directions and initiatives are implemented and carried out during the life of this parliament.

Mr. Cordiano: Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to address the House and my fellow honourable members. The electors and citizens of the constituency of Downsview, which I am most pleased to serve and represent, also will delight in this opportunity to give public expression through me of their views on the thoughts, projects and direction of this government's throne speech. Their initial reaction is one of relief, not because the throne speech represents to them a departure from an anticipated oppressive program, but rather because the citizens of Downsview, and I dare say of the province as a whole, no longer have to look forward with frustration and wallow in anger at the puny programs of this government.

For far too long this government has neglected the principles that draw people together. Its indifference towards the needs of its people and the ties that bind has endured too long at the expense of justice and equity. On those rare occasions when convenience compelled it to view circumstances with equity and to act with a regard to justice, it failed to temper the latter with mercy. Its haughtiness and condescension, the characteristics of ossification, both literally and figuratively, bred an indifference that bordered on scorn for those people whose individual abilities did not immediately measure up to certain standards, standards which for them are artificial and unattainable because of their built-in bias against colour, sex, cultural origin or disability and disadvantage.

We have seen a government that has erected barriers rather than build bridges. My constituents in Downsview have witnessed a dynasty of expediency when they would have preferred a reign of vision. Where the electorate has matured in its scope and perceptions, its government has acted with obdurate reaction. Where society has cried for a leadership that would act with compassion, with a respect for individual dignity, with a regard for the potential of the individual and his progressive social unit, the government has responded with pragmatic inactivity.

For those reasons, Downsview and so many other constituencies greeted the outcome of May 2 with relief and, I am too cautious to say, with jubilation. A jolt of reality by the democratic forces too long dormant with patience has finally struck down the insensitive attitude of a Conservative directorate.

A tyranny of lethargy has come to an end. The government itself has been illuminated by this hard fact of political life. It has begun to parrot the language of progressivism. Unfortunately, it rings hollow. The lexicon of change and reform in the speech from the throne is a thin veneer for the tough scowl that is the record of this government. Its creed will not veil its deeds. The clenched fist of the past will not be hidden by the deceptive smile of today's speech from the throne.

It is little wonder that the ears of the disabled, the disadvantaged, women, the minorities and the unemployed have turned deaf to the promises of this speech from the throne. They recognize it for what it is: a wolf's confession.

How can injured workers believe the government's intent of review and reform of the Workers' Compensation Board? These proud men and women who so willingly applied themselves to their labour, who gave of their youthful energy and strength as a contribution to this province's wealth and growth, find themselves as undignified beggars before an insensitive bureaucracy.

How many more reviews would this government have commissioned before it would admit that two sources of friction emanate from the facts that: (1) the board was initially set up to protect the position of employers, not employees and (2) the board is administered by an established middle class that has to deal with an underprivileged minority working class?

How can anyone expect harmony and responsiveness from a bureaucracy based on an adversarial rather than co-operative approach? Men and women who have plied their trade have endured their labour with the dignity that comes from the realization that one makes a contribution, be it ever so humble, cannot be expected to suffer the indifference and the platitudes of

government when their world crashes about them as a result of a disabling injury. Their mind, their will and their expertise are still intact, their needs extant, but they can no longer fend for themselves, yet they can play a valuable role in society. They cannot be discarded.

This government cannot be insensitive to their willingness and desire to continue to be full contributors to the social dynamic. This government either rejects the worth and dignity of the individual or it does not accept that value to society can be realized through the potential impact that resides with the seemingly less fortunate.

5:50 p.m.

I used the word cautiously in society. Instead of providing leadership and drawing this vast reservoir of talent into the mainstream, this government offers sops to keep it at bay. It seems reluctant to recognize ability which a free, democratic and competitive society fosters. That ability is everywhere evident. We need not shudder with fear or discomfort because it might manifest itself in a handicapped individual or as a member of the opposite sex, through members of ethnocultural groups other than English or through those who are of a different colour or religion.

This government has lacked the courage and political will to acknowledge the truth whereof I speak. For this reason we see halting steps, halfway, half-hearted measures, towards rectifying the absurdity of hiding talents under bushels in this throne speech. How else can one characterize the government's reluctance to make universal the concept of equal pay for work of equal value?

For how much longer can the citizens of this fair province suffer the protection of the powerful at the expense of the weak? For how much longer must they brook the insanity of platitudes when reality cries out for justice? For how much longer will they be forced to live the lie as bias and discrimination slither their destructive attitudes through a society anxious to step into tomorrow with a sense of vision and purpose? Not long, I trust.

I share my constituents' sense of relief at hearing this throne speech, for it represents the death of an era. If the old Tory dynasty has attempted a metamorphosis, it has at least acknowledged its regrettable sins of omission. Now that the democratic world stands over the moribund corpse of a decaying system, we can look forward with a vigour the old tyrant so long repressed.

Mr. Ferraro: It is with a tremendous amount of pride that I stand here today as the 17th representative in this Legislature of the great riding of Wellington South. Wellington South comprises Guelph, the Royal City, and the townships of Guelph and Puslinch.

It would be wrong of me if I did not mention in my maiden speech the man I replace. I speak of Mr. Harry Worton. On June 9 Harry would have celebrated 30 consecutive years as a member of this Legislature. During that period he acquired the admiration and respect not only of his constituents but also of members on both sides of this House.

James Oliver once said that the world is blessed most by men who do things and not by those who merely talk about them. For the past 30 years Wellington South has indeed been blessed by Harry Worton. Unlike me, Harry Worton was not a man who talked a lot. Instead, he let his actions and his honest concern for the people he represented speak for him. I am proud and honoured to follow such a man and to call him my friend.

I am fortunate, not only to be one of 125 individuals elected to this great assembly but also to serve a riding such as Wellington South. It is a mix of city and rural, industry and agriculture, people and cultures as diverse as one can imagine. It is typically Ontarian and Canadian. While such diversity may appear complicated and breed many different points of view, the reality of this cosmopolitan community is quite clear and simple.

The people of Wellington South, not unlike the people of the ridings of all my colleagues, want and deserve fairness, justice and action, not only from me as their representative but also from the Legislature as a whole. My mandate is to try my hardest to address the needs of my riding. In that regard I will be looking for solutions to the hospital and health care problem in Wellington South, to unemployment and social service and educational concerns, to name a few. The needs of young and old, men and women who pay my salary, are now my only job description.

My background has been that of mortgage manager and appraiser for a large trust company. In many respects my job has not changed. As a lender, I used to say I made people happy by putting them in debt. But I also helped people to fulfil their dreams by assisting them in buying homes, by helping them in their businesses and with investment opportunities. In doing so, for the most part, I helped people to get what they

worked for and expected: a better life. As a politician, similarly, I am serving the people in much the same way. I will be dealing with their lives, albeit to a greater degree, as I deal with their housing needs and their business and social environment, and I hope the people will get the same result: a better life.

I do not intend to use this opportunity to criticize or condemn any government or any party or any particular piece of legislation; God willing, there will be time enough for that. Having been an alderman for four and a half years, I have learned that politics demands patience, it demands understanding and respect and it demands courage and faith. I believe in these virtues and I will endeavour to foster these beliefs in the days ahead.

Let me conclude by saying that today I feel a little like Christopher Columbus. In fact, may I be so bold as to say that all politicians here today have a common identity, to some degree, with Christopher Columbus. When Columbus started out, he did not know where he was going. When he got back, he did not know where he had been. And he did it all on other people's money.

I look forward to the future with confidence and optimism. I look forward to working with my colleagues not only in the Liberal Party but on all sides of this House. I look forward to serving the people of Wellington South and I will do so to the best of my ability. When I am no longer a member of this Legislature, for whatever reason, my hope is that the people I have served and my family and friends will be proud of my service and that Wellington South and Ontario will be a better place in which to live and grow.

Mr. Grandmaître: I will not take more than four minutes, but I would have loved to take more.

Mon élection à Queen's Park, à ma deuxième tentative, est pour moi un sommet et j'ai accepté ce défi avec confiance et détermination. Ma tâche ne sera pas facile. Je remplace M. Albert Roy, qui pendant 12 années a respecté et déployé tous ses efforts pour servir Ottawa Est.

J'ai choisi le Parti libéral pour la simple raison que je crois fermement que nous sommes la vraie alternative. Ottawa Est est composée de la deuxième plus grande majorité francophone de toute cette province et notre désir demeure toujours le même: l'égalité, qualité avec nos confrères anglophones. Je n'ai pas l'intention de bousculer qui que ce soit ou de me faire bousculer par qui que ce soit.

Mes 13 années d'expérience dans l'arène municipale vont trés bien me servir. Je dois avouer que le forum provincial est très différent mais très intéressant. La journée historique du 18 juin, de demain, approche et j'aurai besoin plus que jamais de la bonne compréhension et de l'appui de tous les gens d'Ottawa Est.

J'ai confiance qu'un gouvernement libéral, avec sa nouvelle approche de gouvernement ouvert, répondra aux besoins de tous les citoyens

de cette province.

I may represent the second largest francophone constituency in Ontario, but I can assure all the members of this House that I have no axe to grind and that I do not have a francophone chip on my shoulder. I want equality for all our people. I have gained the reputation of being a fighter for francophone rights and I intend to live

up to that reputation. I intend to serve my party and my province with the same enthusiasm I displayed at the municipal level. I firmly believe Ontario is a province with great potential and opportunity, and I intend to make it even greater. We can do that if we all put aside our partisan ideals and serve one master, Ontario's people, regardless of creed, colour or religion.

The Deputy Speaker: I draw the member's attention to the clock. He might like to move adjournment of the debate and be the first speaker tomorrow.

On motion by Mr. Grandmaître, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

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Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 33rd Parliament

Tuesday, June 18, 1985

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, June 18, 1985

The House met at 2 p.m. Prayers.

ONTARIO MOTOR VEHICLE ARBITRATION PLAN

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: Yesterday, in answer to a question, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Runciman) said the Automobile Protection Association "was very supportive of the program we announced a week ago." Today, the president of that association confirmed that there has been no conversation or consultation by phone, in person or by letter between the APA and the ministry on this program and that it had not had any consultation on any protection program since 1983.

I would ask you to rule on whether my privileges have been abused by the minister's having misled the House-inadvertently, of course-in his answer to my question.

Mr. Speaker: I would have to rule that that is not a point of privilege.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

MINING LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Harris: I am pleased to announce to the House that later today I will be introducing important new legislation, changes to the Mining Act. 1985.

I am very pleased to be introducing this legislation at this time, when the exploration sector of our mining industry is very active. In 1984, Ontario reached a record high level for assessment work, with more than 3.1 million days of assessment work being done.

This government is doing a great deal to foster and develop Ontario's mineral resources. The legislation I will be introducing will provide additional encouragement to the industry. It is also intended to streamline the administrative and regulative activities of the government.

The changes have been a long time in the making. The proposed act I am introducing today is based on more than several years of public dialogue, discussion and negotiation. Because of this careful preparation, the changes address a wide range of concerns and issues. I believe they

will be welcomed warmly by the industry, the interested public and the members of this House.

These changes are essentially adjustments to the Mining Act of 1906, which has served the province and the mining industry well. These changes accomplish three things. They update the Mining Act of 1906; they make allowance for the rapid improvements that have been made in exploration technology; and they represent a simplification and streamlining of the legislation affecting mineral exploration and development in Ontario.

I am also confident the proposed changes I will be introducing today have the added benefit of encouraging the wise and responsible development of Ontario's mineral wealth.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Hon. Mr. Harris: I am also pleased to mention to the House that later this week I will be announcing the details of my ministry's newest community involvement program, one that will give the general public an opportunity to become involved in wildlife management.

Members may already know about CFIP, our community fisheries involvement program. Its success has shown that hands-on management by the concerned public works very well. Our new initiative is called CWIP, the community wildlife involvement program. The program will give people the opportunity to get out and actually do work that will improve conditions for our wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreational pursuits.

CWIP is based on our knowledge of people's interest in wildlife and on our experience with the excellent work done by volunteers. One of the best ways to stir the feelings of the stewardship we should all have towards our wildlife is to become directly involved. I believe this program will accomplish that goal.

I expect to announce more details about CWIP later this week. At that time, I would encourage all members of this House to invite their constituents to submit project proposals to the nearest district office of my ministry.

Mr. Riddell: I think the wildlife will be taking your golf balls. You are going to have more time for golf.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: We do not want to hear from the new minister of rent control. I know the tenants are all relaxing, Vince, but just hang on to yourself now.

WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

Hon. Mr. Elgie: June 20 marks the first anniversary of the tragic rockburst that took the lives of four miners at the Falconbridge mine. In memory of those courageous men and all other victims of work-place accidents, the city of Sudbury has declared June 20 as Workers' Memorial Day. A number of members of this Legislature, including myself, the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Gordon) and the local members, will be in Sudbury to pay our respects and to attend that memorial service.

The occasion gives us cause to reflect on the sad event of one year ago. Members may recall, as I do, the former Minister of Labour, Russell Ramsay, rising in the Legislature to announce that one of the miners, a young man who had been trapped for an entire day, had been reached by the rescue team. We all hoped and prayed he would survive the ordeal. However, a few moments later we learned he had died and we all joined the minister in his expression of grief and sympathy for the victims' families, friends and co-workers.

The rockburst which caused the devastation and took the lives of these four brave men brought out the most selfless and courageous instincts of those people involved in the rescue operation, who, at considerable risk to themselves, worked around the clock in a tireless effort to rescue the trapped miners. All of us who watched and prayed during those anxious hours were inspired by their heroic efforts on behalf of their co-workers.

We also pause today to remember other workers who have lost their lives through accidents or occupational diseases. In their memory, let us rededicate ourselves to the cause of work-place health and safety and redouble our efforts to minimize occupational risks.

One positive consequence of the events of June 20 was the fact that labour, management and government joined forces to study the nature and causes of ground movements which endanger the lives of underground workers. In particular, I refer to the establishment of the tripartite committee on ground control and emergency preparedness which has been at work for the last nine months in probing these difficult issues. This government recognizes the urgent

importance of the committee's work. I am confident its report and recommendations, expected later this summer, will be given the most serious and urgent attention.

To the families and friends of the four miners who died one year ago and to those who have suffered in similar circumstances, may I extend the deepest condolences of our government and the Legislative Assembly.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Van Horne: I would like to add a very few words on behalf of our party in the light of the minister's comments. We wish simply to indicate our very deep feelings of sympathy and also to pass on our condolences to the families. It is my hope to be able to attend the ceremony the minister indicated he was attending.

Mr. Martel: Since this tragedy occurred in the riding I represent, I want to join with the minister in expressing our condolences. My leader and I flew to Sudbury with the Minister of Labour of the day on that occasion, which was a terrible tragedy.

A request has been made by the unions involved in a ceremony that is going to occur on June 20 that the flags, both here and in provincial buildings across the province, be lowered to pay our respects to all the working people of the province who have been killed, regardless of the line of duty they have been in. I understand groups such as the Ontario Provincial Police and other police are joining in on this occasion in Sudbury.

I urge the minister to see whether he can get what I have tried to get for about two weeks, a response from the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) to the request that the flags be lowered on that day.

RED MEAT PLAN

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: I have been asked by the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Stevenson), who has been delayed in returning from the pork congress in Stratford-in your constituency, Mr. Speaker-to make-

Mr. Kerrio: I thought he was with Mr. Mulroney at the pork barrel.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: He could not find any room. The Liberals are in it. There is no room at the inn.

On behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, I would like to bring the honourable members up to date on the national tripartite stabilization program for Canada's red meat producers.

As the members know, Ontario has been a strong advocate of this program as part of an overall plan of action to revitalize this province's all-important red meat sector. The challenges faced by this group of food producers have been well documented. I am sure I do not need to reiterate them.

The proposal for a national tripartite stabilization program was resurrected by Ontario after it had lain dormant for many years. The province has supported this concept at every stage from the initial discussions to the present examination of federal legislation by the House of Commons standing committee on agriculture.

Bill C-25, which would make tripartite stabilization a reality, has received second reading, as the members are no doubt aware, and has been referred to the committee prior to going back to the House for third reading. The Minister of Agriculture and Food was recently in Ottawa to appear before this committee, where he once again presented Ontario's position in favour of the national program in the strongest possible terms.

His appearance in Ottawa was disquieting in one sense, because there seemed to be a perception that Ontario and the three prairie provinces, which have stood behind this plan from the start, might now be agreeable to certain amendments. His purpose today is to set the record straight as to where this province stands on national tripartite stabilization.

The one paramount characteristic of this program, as it is now designed, and the one on which Ontario must and will stand firm, is the precept of no top-loading by any province. In other words, there is no room for provinces to have stabilization programs of their own for the red meat sector. Such programs would render national stabilization a meaningless shell, a program in name only.

Any measure of this type would only aggravate the real problems that national stabilization was designed to solve. Most important, tripartite stabilization would stop the wasteful competition between provincial treasuries that currently exists with a range of disparate and conflicting stabilization programs.

There is no room for this provincial assistance in a truly national program. The overriding benefit of national stabilization is that all producers across this country will be treated alike. To this end, Ontario has already phased out its only provincial stabilization program for sow-weaners to clear the way for the national program. We have a commitment to national

stabilization and this action confirms our faith in

It also confirms our belief that the establishment of the national program, in the form that has been under consideration for so long, is imminent. We anticipate the bill will likely come back from the committee for third reading before the current federal session ends.

Any major changes at this stage could adversely affect that timing. Also, any changes in this concept of no add-on provincial programs further damages Ontario and Canada in international markets. We become a prime target for countervailing action and other forms of trade retaliation.

The national tripartite program, as designed, is intended to stop losses. It is a form of insurance. However, layers of provincial assistance on top of the basic national package quickly move this into the realm of subsidy, which can lead to a call for retaliation in the global marketplace.

The national tripartite stabilization program that is currently under consideration in Ottawa has the support of the four major producing provinces as well as national and provincial red meat producer groups.

In summary, I can assure these producers and the members of this House of two things. First, Ontario will continue to stand up for the national tripartite stabilization program in the form Bill C-25 originally set out. Second, to the red meat producers of Ontario I would say that, should the national program they are anticipating not be put in place, the province will honour its commitment to a bipartite partnership between our producers and the Ontario government retroactive to January 1, 1985.

We would do that with reluctance, not because we have any hesitation in assisting our red meat producers, but because we feel the national program is by far the best way to do it. However, in its continued absence, we would have no choice but to implement a provincial plan. We would leave the door open to a national program by designing ours so that it could be incorporated into tripartite stabilization as soon as it became available.

As the minister said to the standing committee, we have a national market in red meat. The promotion of national efficiency requires that producers in all provinces receive equal treatment. We must have a program that provides equal stabilization payments to all those who participate in the national market.

The need is clear and pressing. We urge the federal Parliament, as the minister did in Ottawa,

to act in the national interest and to pass this long-awaited legislation as drafted, as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Mr. Wrye: A change of hats.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Wait until we get the Minister responsible for Women's Issues and the minister for rent review up here as well.

MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Later today I will introduce six bills that make a number of important amendments to legislation affecting the municipalities of Ontario.

Mr. Rae: Only six; do not be a piker.

Mr. Kerrio: When is the fireworks display? Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The member will perhaps find next week that it is a lot easier to throw spears than it is to catch them. We will see, come next week, who is better at catching them.

The amendments to the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act will provide for the direct election to Metro council of a Metro councillor from each of the city of Toronto's 11 wards, who will also sit on the city of Toronto council. The legislation will also provide for the election of a city alderman for each ward, who will sit on the city council only. It has been requested by the council of the city of Toronto and is supported by the council of the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto.

The Regional Municipalities Amendment Act was given first reading on November 8, 1984, as Bill 134. Three important new provisions—

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I do not think the minister has shared a copy with the critics. I hope he will remember that. This being his last day, he may want to forget it after today.

Mr. Speaker: Has the minister passed along copies?

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I apologize and I will make sure that in the future we distribute them earlier.

Three important new provisions have been added to the Regional Municipalities Amendment Act which will increase representation on certain regional councils. In Waterloo, the legislation will add one member to regional council from the city of Waterloo. In Durham, it will add two members, one from the town of

Ajax and the other from the town of Whitby. In York, it will also add two members, one from the town of Markham and the other from the town of Vaughan. These changes are being made as a result of local requests in response to population growth in those regions.

The Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth Amendment Act will achieve two goals. First, it will enable the city of Hamilton and the region to divide the assets and liabilities of the Hamilton municipal employees' retirement fund and to administer the two portions as separate plans for the benefit of their employees. Second, it will provide for the transfer of plan members to the Ontario municipal employees' retirement system, where the members choose to transfer to OMERS.

The District Municipality of Muskoka Amendment Act was given first reading on November 8, 1984, as Bill 135. It will provide for the earlier selection of the district chairman and allow the district council to hold its first meeting at an earlier date. These amendments, which are being made at the request of the district council, will enable each new council to begin work immediately after a municipal election.

The Municipal Elections Amendment Act will remove the requirement in section 17 of the act whereby the clerk must inform the assessment commissioner of the municipality's polling subdivision boundaries by April 1 of an election year. This will enable municipalities such as Oshawa to make revisions to their polling subdivision after April 1.

The Line Fences Amendment Act was given first reading on June 19, 1984, as Bill 111. In fact, it is a biggy in the rural community. It has two major purposes. The first is to establish a new method of hearing appeals from the awards of municipal fence-viewers. In future, appeals will be heard by individual referees, who will be chosen on the basis of their specialized knowledge of fencing issues and of the traditions relating to line fences in Ontario, especially in agricultural areas.

The second purpose of the bill is to make a number of other, more technical amendments to the act. These are based on our ongoing consultations with interested groups and individuals and are intended to improve the administration of the act at the local level. Bill 111 was circulated widely to all groups and individuals with an interest in the Line Fences Act. The response has been very positive, especially to the proposed new method of hearing appeals under this new legislation.

Mr. Mancini: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Some 10 days ago the minister who has just resumed his seat issued a press release, along with his colleague the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Harris), claiming they had approved a \$5-million program of assistance for Essex and Kent counties. However, this has not been passed by order in council, and I was wondering if we could have clarification of this.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is not a point of privilege. You can ask that during question period.

FRENCH-LANGUAGE TELEVISION SERVICE

Hon. Mr. Leluk: This afternoon it is my pleasure to announce to the members of the Legislative Assembly that a new province-wide, French-language television service is to be broadcast through TVOntario.

Since its inception in 1970, TVO has undertaken to provide educational television services to the French-speaking residents of Ontario by including a portion of French programming within the basic TVO broadcast service. This French-language service is currently limited to 19 hours of programming per week; it is broadcast primarily on Sundays.

This basic, minimum service to francophones cannot be expanded in its present form without reducing English-language services. A dedicated French-language educational television service in Ontario is the only instrument that will effectively respond to the cultural and linguistic needs of French-speaking Ontarians.

Late last year an agreement was reached between the provincial and federal governments. Each jurisdiction agreed to fund 50 per cent of the total \$30 million which will be required over the next six years.

There are two components to the project. The first is the satellite distribution of programming to cable systems across the province. This could be in full operation by late 1986. Second, a broadcast transmitter will be erected in a region with a high francophone concentration that currently has low cable penetration. This will permit direct reception of the new service into all homes in the region. It is hoped this transmitter will also be operational by mid-1987.

The extended service will provide at least five hours per day of original programming, which will be repeated the following day, for a daily total of at least 10 hours of French programming. In total, the new service will increase Frenchlanguage programming from the current 19 hours

per week to at least 70 extra hours of French language per week.

With this extended time, TVOntario will be able to provide French versions of such popular shows as Polka Dot Door, the acclaimed Octo-Puce Computer Academy and other excellent science, public affairs and arts programming that is currently only available in the English language.

In addition to the obvious benefits to the francophone community, there will also be an important economic impact. I would like to remind members of the House that TVO's purchasing policies follow the government's Canadian preference policy. The \$6 million spent annually on this new service, including program production and acquisition, satellite distribution and services, will therefore make a significiant impact on our provincial economy. Employment will be created for various types of performers, technicians, producers and tradesmen

TVOntario has established a solid international reputation for excellence in educational programming. Therefore, it is expected its French-language programming will generate an additional \$100,000 annually from international sales.

We have received numerous complimentary responses from Franco-Ontarian community leaders, organizations and individuals. I would like to share two of these comments with my colleagues in the House.

The president of the Sudbury-based Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario said in a letter, "We have before us today a significant political decision, a clear indication of goodwill on the part of two respective governments, provincial and federal, to co-operate in the cultural development of Franco-Ontarians. Bravo!"

Mr. Breaugh: Go back to the Polka Dot Door. **An hon. member:** Polkeroo, polkeroo.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: He said it; I did not.

The chairman of the Council for Franco-Ontarian Education said in his letter, "The commitment of your government will bring benefits to the francophone community in the areas of education, language, culture, arts and economy."

The government's long-term goal for TVOntario has always been that eventually all Ontarians would have access to this vital educational and cultural resource. I am sure my colleagues will agree it is time now that the standards of quality programming for which TVO is famous

become more widely available to the Frenchspeaking residents of our province. Now is the time to realize our goal.

Mr. Foulds: You made it just in time.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: There is more good news coming.

DISASTER RELIEF

Hon. Mr. Leluk: For the past two weeks the entire country's concern has been focused on the victims of south-central Ontario's tornadostricken communities. Not since Hurricane Hazel in 1954 has a natural disaster of this magnitude battered the province. The tornado not only destroyed precious human life but also left great numbers of people homeless and without the means of earning a living.

Harder hit than most communities was the quiet riverside town of Grand Valley, home to 1,200 residents. On the afternoon of May 31, two persons were killed, 100 homes obliterated and 200 more severely damaged. One of the buildings destroyed was the 76-year-old Grand Valley Public Library. When its roof caved in, a librarian and several children lay trapped, buried beneath the rubble. I am pleased to report today that no serious injuries occurred.

The library played a vital role in the community for more than three quarters of a century. It was a reference point for students, a treasury for citizens intent on expanding their horizons and a peaceful refuge for all who wish to retreat from the weariness of everyday life. The Grand Valley Public Library was also a landmark of some significance, for it was one of 78 Carnegie libraries still left intact and operational in the province.

2:30 p.m.

Members will no doubt be familiar with the philanthropy and vision of the late American steel magnate, Andrew Carnegie. At the turn of the century, Mr. Carnegie decided the very best gift he could give to any one community was a library. His generosity captured the imagination and spurred the determination of countless small communities in Ontario hopeful of winning a Carnegie library grant.

Of the 125 Carnegie libraries built in Canada between the years 1901 and 1971, 111 were located here in Ontario. The Grand Valley Public Library was one of three libraries designed by architect George Gray. The original Grand Valley Public Library represented an integral part of the cultural history and architectural heritage of Ontario. We can never bring this library back, but this government is committed to

helping the people of Grand Valley rebuild their broken homes and lives.

The Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller) announced on June 3 that the Ontario government will be matching \$3 for every \$1 donated to aid tornado victims. This is a substantial increase over regular disaster relief assistance.

In keeping with this initiative, I wish to announce today that the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture will be giving \$3 for every \$1 donated towards the reconstruction of the Grand Valley Public Library, above and beyond expenses covered by its insurance policy. In addition, the ministry will be contributing \$3 for every \$1 raised by the Ontario Library Association for building contents not covered by insurance. Moneys for both projects will be made available under our community facilities development program announced in April.

I know all members extend their condolences to the survivors and their families. It will take time to recover from the grief and shock that follow a disaster of this dimension. I am grateful that my ministry is able to offer some assistance to the citizens of Grand Valley who are now struggling to rebuild their lives, their homes and their community.

AUTOMOTIVE PARTS INVESTMENT FUND

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I am pleased to report to the members on the status of the automotive parts investment fund program. One of my ministry's objectives is to sharpen the competitiveness of Ontario's automotive parts industry. To do this, we established the automotive parts investment fund in October 1984. This is a three-year program funded by the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development.

The program was allocated \$30 million to finance product development, plant modernization and manpower training in firms that are prepared to commit resources to these goals. I would like to point out that the automotive parts industry in Ontario employs 58,000 people; many work in small and medium-sized firms. These businesses are facing increased competition worldwide from new technologies. Therefore, the automotive parts investment fund is targeted to assist these firms to improve their market position.

The fund allows manufacturers to hire new employees and train their existing staff to use the modern technology that now is available. I would like to stress that by offering funding for both updated technology and retraining, our government is showing its commitment to increasing our technological competitiveness while at the same time enhancing the levels of employment and the quality of jobs available in the automotive sector.

I am pleased to advise the honourable members that to date the government has announced loans to eight companies totalling \$3.1 million for projects that will create 169 new jobs. Today I am announcing a further \$6.7 million in loans to 12 companies that will create an additional 442 new jobs.

These companies, located across Ontario in communities such as Wallaceburg, Windsor, Ariss, Concord, Guelph, St. Catharines, Weston, Brantford, Mississauga, Woodstock, Waterloo, Cambridge and Toronto, have shown by their initiative that they are committed to the future of this industry. Their plans to upgrade their factories to take advantage of the latest advances in high-technology manufacturing demonstrate that they intend to remain on a level with the world's best.

For example, \$750,000 is being provided to Woodstock Stampings Inc., a new technology-based stamping firm, which will manufacture exhaust components and bracket flanges to serve the needs of the world automotive market. This project will create 60 new jobs. Ontario Die Co. in Waterloo is receiving \$441,500 to expand its plant and buy state-of-the-art machinery and equipment to develop new technology for making polyurethane-film adhesive products, which are used in automotive interiors, including door panels, sun visors, headliners and seating. These are just two of the 20 companies that are strengthening themselves with the aid of the automotive parts investment fund.

All loans are five-year, repayable term loans covering as much as half the cost of eligible projects to a maximum limit of \$750,000 per company over a three-year period. Projects involving innovative products and production technologies can be eligible for performance incentives through deferral of principal and waiving of interest up to a maximum of three years. Borrowers may also earn a principal reduction of as much as 15 per cent to offset their costs of manpower retraining associated with the project.

Cabinet and the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development have approved further loans totalling \$11 million to 19 companies. These loans will create 854 jobs. Specific details will be released when the final legal agreements are signed some time in the near future.

In summary, since the beginning of the program, the government has committed \$20.7 million to 39 firms for projects that will create 1,475 jobs. This will generate \$92 million in capital investment.

I would like to assure the members that my ministry will continue to work in close cooperation with the automotive parts industry, and I am confident the initiative of the automotive parts investment fund will be successful in increasing the quality and competitiveness of this important industry while at the same time providing more jobs for the people of our province.

FRENCH-EDUCATION LEGISLATION

Hon. Mr. Grossman: On December 13, 1984, the former Minister of Education, the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson), introduced a major piece of legislation with respect to the governance of French-language or English-language schools and classes under part XI of the Education Act.

Bill 160, which applied to boards of education and to urban, county or district combined Roman Catholic school boards, received first reading but was not dealt with before dissolution of the House. Since then, school boards, associations and many other interested individuals and groups have had an opportunity to examine the bill and give further consideration to the principles involved. We have paid close attention to the additional advice and direction offered to us and we have incorporated many of the recommendations into a new version of the bill.

As a result of this wide consultation and input, I shall introduce a new bill later today. This legislation provides for the governance of French-language schools and classes by elected French-speaking trustees whose children would qualify for minority-language educational rights under section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. While the legislation is written in terms of French-language schools and classes, it applies equally to English-language schools and classes in a minority position.

Our government has continued to make steady progress in the provision of French-language education. This bill marks another significant step forward. It provides elected trustees representing the interests of the francophone community with direct control over schools and classes where education is offered in French for those citizens who qualify under the criteria set forth in Bill 119. The bill is being introduced at this time so we may fulfil our commitment to have

legislation enacted in time for the municipal elections of 1985.

I might add that I know the members of the House would want to join me in acknowledging the tremendous work done in this regard by my predecessor the member for York Mills, who made this bill possible.

2:40 p.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY **SCHOOLS**

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I wish to report to the House today on the progress we have made on our commitment to introduce legislation enabling the extension of public funding to Roman Catholic secondary schools in Ontario. Since my appointment as Minister of Education, I have engaged in extensive consmultation with many individuals and groups, including teachers, trustees, administrators and parents from both the public and separate school systems, both English and French.

I must report to the House that our government is not satisfied with any of the legislative drafts put forward by either the planning and implementation commission or the Ministry of

We believe in getting public input before we introduce legislation.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Those members may order their slaves to introduce something without input; we will not.

There is no single draft currently available that the government is prepared to approve. The problem is further complicated by the fact that amalgamating sections from several different drafts would require further time to ensure continuity and legitimacy.

Finally, the groups I have met with during the last few weeks raised a number of specific issues which are now developing as unresolved concerns. Since questions of basic access, teacher protection and religious education are difficult and yet basic to the legislation, this government is simply not prepared to offer an imperfect legislative draft at this time.

We are anxious to ensure that our commitment to wide public input is maintained.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That member's party should not applaud that.

In the event a new government is formed, I will offer my successor all information, advice and legislative drafts that have been made available to me.

ORAL QUESTIONS

DRIVING OFFENCES

Mr. Epp: I have a question for the Attorney General. Has he taken the time to review the case of Michael Waite, who was charged with criminal negligence but found guilty of the lesser charge of dangerous driving when four teenagers on a Mennonite youth havride last September died after being struck by his car?

Given that the families suffering through this tragedy are residents of my riding, I ask the Attorney General what intentions, if any, he has of reviewing this decision with the possibility of appealing it.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Some time ago, I asked my senior officials to review this matter because of my own concerns, what I perceived to be public concerns and because of mail I received. The transcripts of that matter have not arrived at our ministry to date. We are aware of the time period for an appeal.

I have instructed the senior officials of my ministry to review the transcript and all other matters relating to this case with a view to deciding whether an appeal is appropriate. I expect to hear from them within the 30-day appeal period.

I have also expressed some concern to my ministry officials over a similar case in the Brampton area, the McVeigh case, that is being appealed with regard to the sentence for a similar driving offence.

Mr. Epp: Given the changing attitudes of our society towards the dangers of drinking and driving, I would ask the Attorney General whether he agrees with the lesser charge of dangerous driving imposed on Mr. Waite when a charge of criminal negligence could have given him a life sentence and the dangerous-driving charge has resulted in a sentence of two years less a day, with the possibility of parole in eight months.

Does the Attorney General not see that result as reason enough to appeal this decision?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I really cannot comment any further. That was a jury decision following instructions from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Other than informing members of this House and members of the public that we are reviewing this matter to see whether an appeal is possible, I cannot comment any further on what is really a jury decision.

Mr. Ferraro: Given the previous driving record of Mr. Waite, which was presented as evidence at the trial but in the absence of the jury, and given the growing outcry from the Ontario public over this decision, does the Attorney General not fear the precedent this may set by almost granting a licence to drink and drive if this verdict is not appealed?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I have already indicated that in another case where I was dissatisfied, an appeal has been launched regarding a similar offence. As I understand it, the information with respect to the previous record was introduced with respect to the sentencing procedures. Obviously that is one of the aspects of the evidence introduced and the timing of the introduction of evidence that senior officials of my ministry are reviewing.

We do believe the public perceives that drinking and driving and the consequences of that mix in instances such as this are not acceptable to society. This man has been prosecuted. We personally may agree or disagree with the decision that has been announced, but I do not think any decision could be interpreted as giving a licence to anyone for that kind of conduct.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITY STUDY

Mr. Elston: I have a question of the Minister of Correctional Services concerning his statement yesterday about the feasibility study contemplated to establish a facility at or near the Bruce Energy Centre. Can the minister advise the House today what is contemplated with respect to the type of correctional facility he is talking about? Can he tell us a little bit about the nature of the inmates that he hopes this feasibility study will tell us a little bit more about in August 1985?

Hon. Mr. Cousens: Our ministry is in great need of additional spaces for inmates in Ontario, and this need is being exacerbated as we now are looking after young offenders and we have to take places away from young offenders to provide for others who are in need of being housed by our ministry.

We are looking at other options that can somehow resolve this accommodation requirement that we have. One of the options was that if we were able to find a location that met the need of our ministry to look after medium-security types of individuals but was not too far from Toronto and combined it with some of the other possibilities available within the province, the Bruce Peninsula offered some great possibilities.

We see an opportunity of tying into some of the excess energy produced at Douglas Point. We could then open up the possibility of having inmates working to provide agricultural or aquacultural types of employment for the future, which would not only give them new training and new possibilities for a work environment but also do something to help that community.

I see it as something that can be helpful and beneficial to my ministry, to those who are trying to serve in a corrections way, using a modern concept so they are able to fulfil themselves and then get back into the community more quickly, more trained and more ready to take an active part in the community. I also see it as a method of tying in our ministry's needs with the needs of a section of the province that is looking for further industrial possibilities. This might be a way in which we set an example to other industries to come and establish in that part of our province. We see it as the beginning of a long-term correction procedure.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Elston: I wonder whether the minister can advise the citizens of the province if he has had any consultation with the Atomic Energy Control Board, with Ontario Hydro, with the township of Bruce or with any of the other municipalities in the area, specifically with respect to the five-mile controlled building area that has been established around the Bruce nuclear power development, which prevents the construction of any institution, whether it be a school, hospital or other facility along those same lines.

Has the minister talked to them about the possibility of obtaining consent to change the zoning or the limitations that have been prescribed by those various bodies with respect to building there? How does the minister see that as affecting his feasibility study?

Hon. Mr. Cousens: One of the reasons for a feasibility study is that there are a number of very good questions that have to be answered. It would take the co-operation of not only the government but also of the community and different agencies to be able to respond to the questions the member is asking.

We see the feasibility study as addressing many of those questions, but we also see it as being feasible from the beginning because it would be far enough away in the Kincardine area so as not to be affected by some of the zoning concerns the member is raising.

If the community wants it, there is a possibility that the ministry, in co-operation with other

ministries, can proceed with this kind of project. I see it as a positive step our government can take to combine not only the services of the community that now exist but also to bring more industry into that part of the province. Specifically, my ministry sees it as a very favourable location for it.

Mr. Martel: I heard the minister say he was looking for facilities. Is he not aware his government closed Burwash some years ago? That facility still sits there, empty and totally unused. Is the minister also aware that between 100 and 120 prisoners from the Sudbury area are in institutions around the rest of the province? The reason used to close Burwash was that it was too far for people from the south to go to see their loved ones.

Why is the minister looking around when a facility is sitting there with a new gymnasium, new single male quarters with 42 bed units, six or eight shops and a whole agricultural background? The minister is busy looking around when he has one facility sitting there empty that was closed 10 years ago. What is the matter with him?

Hon. Mr. Cousens: On the question of what is the matter with me, there is nothing the matter with me.

If the member for Sudbury East is really asking what could happen at the Burwash location, I suggest to him that we are looking at it. My deputy minister was in Sudbury within the past three weeks to review the situation further. The need for more corrections space is real and that is not without possibility.

Mr. Elston: With those thoughts in mind, can the minister advise why it is that his ministry did not at least contact the local municipalities to discuss with them the possibility, or even the very limited suggestion that it was going to do a feasibility study, before he announced it here to the surprise of not only the people in that area but I presume also of a number of ministries involved in the setting of standards for construction in the area around the Bruce nuclear power development?

Can the minister also advise whom he did consult before he announced this program to the House? Who is going to be working in conjunction with his ministry to co-ordinate this feasibility study?

Hon. Mr. Cousens: The honourable member knows the importance of dialogue and working with all the communities in resolving such a centre. Upon the announcement yesterday, my ministry got in contact with a number of the

mayors and the people in the area so they could be fully apprised of the initial steps.

Perhaps the member is not included, but other people were very enthused at the possibility of what this correctional centre could do for that community.

I believe there is an awful lot we can be doing in corrections that does not necessarily just put people away but also makes them productive, creative and doing something in life. We see it as an excellent area, but we would not want to do it unless the people in that area want it.

We have had conversations with people there and they seem to be receptive. I have also had conversations with the other ministries here and there is an open response to it. If the member does not want it, we would be glad to have it in Markham.

Mr. Rae: It will be nice for the minister to be remembered as being responsible for a nuclear jail program.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Rae: My question is to the Minister of Education concerning the statement he made today, which statement I must say can only be described as extraordinarily cunning, indeed almost machiavellian, in its quality. On page 2, the minister says:

"Since questions of basic access, teacher protection and religious education are difficult and yet basic to the legislation, the government is simply not prepared to offer an imperfect legislative draft at this time."

When was the first cabinet discussion, either in this government or in the Davis government, with respect to these specific problems and other problems? Surely they would be apparent to anyone the day on which the Premier of this province made the announcement, June 12. They had been apparent and they were apparent in his statement. What is the problem? Why has the government not resolved the issue and stated where it stands as a party on these basic issues?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will take that question as notice.

Mr. Kerrio: Does that mean we will not get an answer?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is right. I will not tell members details of cabinet discussions, nor when they were held.

I will admit I have not carefully read the accord that the two parties have made. Perhaps the Liberals have undertaken to share details of all cabinet discussions, including when they are held and what is on the agenda every Wednesday. We do not operate that way. We make cabinet decisions. The secrecy of cabinet decisions—

Mr. Bradley: The minister does not operate at all.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: What was that? Did he say they are not going to tell them anything at all?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Lest the member thinks this is a machiavellian or cunning answer—and I know this will be irrelevant to him—parliamentary tradition regarding cabinet meetings goes back 700 years. I understand that would be irrelevant to the member.

Mr. Rae: I did not realize the Tories had been in power for 700 years. Maybe it just feels that long; I do not know. I knew it was a long time ago, but I had no idea—

Mr. Speaker: Is that your question?

Mr. Rae: I was not asking the minister to give us details of what the cabinet discussed; I was simply asking him to tell us—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The member was.

Mr. Rae: No, no. I was simply asking the minister to tell us when this matter was first considered. If that is a state secret, the revelation of which would cause the downfall of 700 years of parliamentary tradition, I guess the minister really cannot answer that very difficult and tough question of what day it was that the cabinet actually started discussing something.

If the minister is dissatisfied with the various drafts, I suppose he is going show the nine drafts to the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) and say: "Here now, you pick one of these. We are going to shuffle them up; you pick one and we will decide whether or not you have picked the right one." The minister will say: "Oh, no, you picked the wrong one. Oh, dear, we cannot support you on this one because you picked the wrong draft."

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Rae: What is the problem? What is the position of the Conservative Party? Where does the Conservative Party stand? All of these problems were dealt with by Mr. Davis in his statement on June 12, 1984. Is the minister telling us now that he is repudiating the position Bill Davis took on that date?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member has believed that all of the events that have occurred since June 12, 1984, including discussions with

the teachers' federation, a group he might be interested in, have been simply going through the motions and that there has been nothing to clarify or sort out since that June 12 statement, then perhaps he is saying more about his style of government than he is about our handling of this legislation.

The very fact that he suggests the teachers' federation would have had nothing to add on the very serious issues I talked about in my statement indicates that perhaps he does not take its advice and input very seriously. Over here we have a great deal of respect for the federation and we listened to what it had to say.

Mr. Rae: The minister is running and hiding; that is apparent. What other conclusion can one draw? The teachers' concerns have been expressed time and time again since day one. I have met the executive of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation; I have met them at the provincial level and at the local level. I would suspect our caucus and I have met them more often than has the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, please.

Mr. Rae: It is shocking that after a year the Tory party is saying to Ontario: "Here, this problem is too difficult. We have been wrestling with it for a year. We cannot even come up with one single piece of legislation, with one draft." That in itself is justification for the defeat the members opposite are going to be suffering at six o'clock tonight. It is shameful.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is that your supplementary?

Mr. Rae: No. I have a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: I thought that was your supplementary.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I might say to the leader of the third party I do not know what occurred in his meetings with the OSSTF. Maybe he was just there to get instructions and marching orders. We were there to listen and to get advice.

Perhaps they did not share with him what they shared with me. I will tell him that under the terms of the discussion I had with them last week we agreed it would, like cabinet meetings, remain confidential.

Mr. Rae: It is all a big secret.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member can call the federation if he objects to that. But I might tell him quite seriously that they indicated there were some concerns that had not been previously expressed and concerns they had not previously been aware of until they were able to see the draft legislation and until they had experienced—

Mr. Warner: They have even seen it. Show it to the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere should sit down or resign.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Therefore, they were very appreciative of the opportunity to offer further advice on how to operate that system.

Might I say one final thing to my friend? I understand perfectly, in reading the accord, that in item 1 the Ontario Liberal Party is required by the New Democratic Party, and I read directly, to "release present draft legislation immediately." They may be in a position to dictate to the Liberals; they are not and never will be in a position to dictate to our party.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am certain there are many other members who want to ask questions.

Mr. Rae: I have a second question for the same minister. All I can say is that that is not what the Minister of Education was saying to our caucus just a short two weeks ago. How times have changed.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Rae: It is nice to know there is one constitution for the interest groups that are meeting with the Minister of Education and another constitution for the rest of the province. If the minister is prepared to show drafts to various groups that are affected by this legislation, why is he not prepared to show drafts when he is a member of the government of Ontario to the people of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: So far, the member has been having as good a week as the Blue Jays have been having.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is true. Next week will be different.

The member may not respect a process that has offered three or four different drafts of various sections to the parents, to the teachers' federation and to the trustees. He may not think that is the proper process to go through, but we do. He may also have forgotten that the Commission for Planning and Implementing Change in the Governance and Administration of Secondary Education in Ontario has had 18 hearings throughout the province in order to form the basis for its recommendations to us. He may not think that was the right process to follow, but we do.

Finally, and this is very important for those of us who have had the opportunity to serve in government, when the government offers a draft it is seen to be, notwithstanding any words we use to the contrary, a draft with the stamp of government approval. That gives it a lot more authority and weight than any other drafts or any other discussion that goes around. The member may not think this piece of legislation requires that kind of care and consideration and sensitivity, but we do.

The New Democratic Party believes we should curtail input at the committee stage. Again, we disagree.

Mr. Rae: If anybody has balled up the process, it is the Tory party of Ontario. It has been a mess from the very beginning. They have failed to tell us where they stand. They should have been involving people in discussions of draft legislation months ago. It could have been done months ago but was not. They have left the process of implementation in a very difficult situation and they are responsible for that. That responsibility lies at the door of the Tory party and it will always lie there. They are the ones who held up carriage of this matter for over a year.

The government can have draft legislation go to committee, which has happened. It can have white papers go to committee, which has happened. Those processes have happened. We discussed child welfare legislation in draft form and trust company legislation in draft form. These issues went to committee and were discussed, all within the 700 years of tradition of Tory government in Ontario.

If all that was possible, why was it not possible on an issue that is probably the most sensitive one facing the province today? Why did the minister not go to committee with that issue? Why is he handling it in this appalling way?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I want to deal with each one of those points. First, the member suggests the process has been messy.

Mr. Rae: I did not say messy; I said messed up.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Messed up, excuse me. I know how careful the member is with words. **3:10 p.m.**

I would remind the member, referring to his own question either yesterday or Friday, that 30 boards have already met and resolved plans that have met with the approval of the planning and implementation commission. That does not indicate the process is very messy at all. Only one

plan has been rejected by the planning and implementation commission.

In essence, the orderly process, which has the local boards resolving many of these matters locally in conjunction with the planning and implementation commission, and then the planning and implementation commission recommending approved plans to the ministry for further approval, is absolutely working well. It is going very nicely.

There is not the disarray the honourable member suggests. With some exceptions, boards are not at war with each other. There is no mass confusion. The teachers' federation has been involved in the discussions at the local level and almost all the boards, save one, that want to come in have had their plans approved. They have been discussed at the local level with the teachers and they are ready to proceed. So much for the member's allegation that this process has, as he has put it, been messed up.

I would remind the member that the process set up last year, which he approved, had the planning and implementation commission having hearings through the fall, with discussions being held and recommendations coming to the government in March 1985 for legislative steps to be taken. That was the process he approved.

I would remind him he approved of it so much that he did not query the process even once last fall. Therefore, when he puts the proposition that this has been badly handled, he is saying one simple thing. The legislation would otherwise have been introduced in mid-April in the process he tacitly agreed to and accepted as a good process. He is saying it is because the process, which would have introduced legislation in mid-April with his tacit agreement, now is being looked at in mid-June, solely because of an election.

If that is tantamount to his allegation against this government, that we had an election and therefore this bill is perhaps eight weeks late, then let us understand that is the sum and substance of the entire allegation he can make. Like many of his other allegations, it sounds good when he makes it, but it will not stand up to the factual analysis of how this government has handled that very delicate matter. As long as we are here, we will continue to handle it properly.

Mr. Rae: I honestly have difficulty; perhaps I need a translator or something. I do not know what it is.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would remind the honourable member that if he asks a long question, he may expect to get a long answer. I

wonder if he could cut down the supplementaries.

Mr. Rae: It is not the length, it is the straightness that is the problem. I simply ask the minister, can he help me? Can he explain, briefly if he likes, why, if everything is so hunky-dory and the process is so marvellous and working so well, are those guys running away from the problem and dumping it on to the next government?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I do not see in the agreement where the member is obliged to cover up for, defend and protect the next government, if there is one, but I understand his concern.

In view of that question, one wonders whether the leader of the New Democratic Party, who is so interested to know where this party stands on that legislation, was equally interested in knowing where the Ontario Liberal Party stands on the legislation before he agreed to support that party and put it in office with a blank cheque. It is not in this agreement. Did he ask those questions? Did he care enough about the legislation? Now he suddenly wants to know all pieces of it. If he did know—and he is nodding his head, yes—why does he not tell us where he stands on that legislation?

YOUTH WORKS

Mr. Ward: I am not sure whether my question should be addressed to the Minister of Skills Development or to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Timbrell), but I will give the former a try.

One of the programs operated by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and now being transferred to the Ministry of Skills Development is Youth Works. Under this program employers hire young people for a period of time, often 26 weeks, and are reimbursed by the province for either the full minimum wage or \$2.50 per hour, according to the qualifications of the youth hired.

It has been brought to my attention that numerous employers have completed the training period and have still not received a cent from the government. Can the minister explain why employers, many of them with small businesses with cash-flow problems, are being asked to carry government debts for months on end?

Hon. Mr. Gillies: First of all, the honourable member is a little behind the times. The program is no longer with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing at all. It is with my Ministry of Skills Development.

Second, the funds under the Youth Works program, which are indeed being flowed on an ongoing basis, are going out. If the member has any particular problem with an employer in his riding, I wish he would bring it to my attention. These funds are being flowed, and I would add that some 11,000 young people are being employed under that one program.

Mr. Ward: I will be happy to bring the specific cases to the minister's attention. Obviously, the establishment of a Ministry of Skills Development has caused some delays, but that hardly justifies the burden the government has placed on some employers.

This program was announced more than a year ago with great fanfare; a hotline was established and a large advertising program was begun. Yet employers who hired people as far back as last January and who have now finished the full hiring period have not been reimbursed even for the first 13 weeks. I would like to know what the minister thinks this kind of performance does to encourage private sector employers to participate in this program.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: The directions taken by this government arising out of the 1984 budget are for the first time allowing private sector employers to hire trainees in the nonsummer months under this program, young people with lower levels of skills and education who have not had these opportunities before.

I would reiterate to the member that under the \$4-per-hour subsidy portion of our Youth Works program there are some 4,904 full-time participants and 851 part-time participants, because again for the first time we brought in as part of this program a part-time component for students who wanted to pursue their education. Under the \$2.50 subsidy, where private, nonprofit and municipal hirings are allowed, there are more than 5,500 positions.

These programs are new, they are innovative and they are serving a whole cadre of young people for whom there were no programs of this sort before. I believe that if the member would care to review the facts of these programs with me and look at the numbers of people being served, he would be forced to the conclusion I am, namely, that we are doing a better job of serving young people under these programs, in greater numbers and with a greater commitment than ever before. I hope he will afford these programs the kind of evenminded support I believe they deserve.

3:20 p.m.

HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Laughren: In the absence of the Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller), my question is for the Deputy

Premier. Is she aware of the historical significance of today's date? To be more precise, does she know which very significant historical event took place 170 years ago today?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was the successful conclusion of the Battle of Waterloo, if I am not mistaken.

Mr. Laughren: As a matter of fact, I am impressed by the minister's sense of history. I wonder whether she is aware that it was at precisely six o'clock in the evening that the downfall began, that it ended about two hours later and that within precisely four days Napoleon abdicated? Is she not concerned that historians will not draw unfair comparisons between Napoleon and her Premier in view of the fact that it was Napoleon who bungled his last major skirmish?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not sure which pair of dancing shoes the member for Nickel Belt is wearing. I gather he is wearing dancing shoes like all the rest of the New Democratic Party. They are the only people who are going to be dancing anywhere and I think it will be right out the door shortly.

There is absolutely no comparison between the thoughtful, sensitive and understanding addressing of the problems and the matters related to the development of Ontario over a short span of 40 years and the rule of Napoleon, who actually resembled the member from Chapleau more than he resembles any member of this party. I do not think historians are going to make that kind of comparison at all.

Mr. Speaker: I am glad we have handled that matter of urgent public importance.

DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEE

Mr. Barlow: One week ago I rose in my place and asked a question of the Minister of Community and Social Services regarding an employee of the same ministry, Mr. Wayne Tyler. There was a hearing before the Ontario Crown Employees Grievance Settlement Board. At that time the minister said there should be a decision as to whether an appeal would be lodged within a week. Does the minister have that decision?

Hon. Mr. Eves: Yes, I do. As you well know, Mr. Speaker, I sent you a note at the beginning of question period indicating that I would like to respond to two questions that were previously asked.

With respect to the question put to me on June 11 by the member for Cambridge concerning the decision handed down by the Ontario Crown

Employees Grievance Settlement Board, I am able to advise this House that the ministry will be going to judicial review with this case and that proceedings have already been started.

I would like to remind the House that the decision of the Crown Employees Grievance Settlement Board was that Wayne Tyler would be reinstated to employment with the Ministry of Community and Social Services. However, as I explained last week, the decision was being looked at by the legal staff of our ministry and the Ministry of the Attorney General as well.

I have just said that the ministry has decided to seek a judicial review of the Wayne Tyler case. A judicial review involves an application to the Supreme Court of Ontario under the Judicial Review Procedure Act. I want to add that the required documentation now is being prepared by our legal staff. I understand the Supreme Court may be in a position to hear such a review within six months of receiving the necessary documentation.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Knight: I have a question for the Minister of Health. Back in April 1985, the Halton District Health Council recommended the designation of funds for a computerized axial tomography scanner to the Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington. Can the minister tell this House if he intends to take the advice of the council and recommend providing the necessary funds for the CAT scanner to be located at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: With respect to that matter, we have reached a conclusion. That decision has been communicated to the chairman of the health council and the chairmen of both hospital boards.

Mr. Knight: Can the minister give the assurance that he will not make an announcement dated today or before today's date contrary to the advice of the council, and thus eliminate the chances of the scanner going to Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital, where it is greatly needed?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: No.

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DETENTION CENTRE

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Correctional Services. I am sure the minister is well aware of the very tense situation at the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre. What is he doing to reassure the guards in that institution of their safety, rather than just disciplining them for wearing caps in their utter

frustration at being unable to get answers to the complaints they have raised?

Hon. Mr. Cousens: The situation in Hamilton-Wentworth is one about which we have to have a great deal of care, as we always do about any of our institutions. There is a lot of sensitivity on the part of my administration to make sure we respond to the needs of our employees and to their safety while they are on the job. We are exercising every bit of sensitivity we possibly can in that situation.

Mr. Mackenzie: Why is it, then, that the report of the investigation team sent in by the ministry, which talked to the guards and the staff for some considerable time in Hamilton, has not been made available to the union? Why can they not get a copy of it in spite of all their efforts?

Surely the minister understands that after the beating of a guard, when his fellow officers were prevented by management from going to his assistance on May 29, the situation is extremely grave in that detention centre. Why can they not get a copy of the report of that investigation the ministry did? Will the minister give it to them?

Hon. Mr. Cousens: The honourable member says the situation is grave. I do not believe it is. There is a situation under review, and the employees and the administration are trying to work it out amicably. That is the process our ministry is trying to do. To start having reports tabled and a written war going on is not the way I want to see it done. We are doing everything possible to work with our correctional officers and with the union. I am satisfied we are going to resolve all the concerns that are being raised.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Some time last week I was asked a question by the member for London South (Mr. E. J. Smith) regarding a delay in the reassignment of 60 chronic care beds in the area served by the Thames Valley District Health Council. The honourable member suggested the original plan of allowing Grace Villa to include the 60 beds in its plan had been considered and the arrangements had been made to operate these beds under the auspices of a public facility.

Grace Villa apparently negotiated with the University Hospital in London but discussions on this matter broke down in April 1984. In February 1985 the Thames Valley District Health Council recommended to the ministry that the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Mary's Hospital be given the bed allocation with the beds to be housed at Marian Villa, a nursing home operated by the sisters. However, it was necessary to

undertake additional expansion and reconstruction to accommodate this facility.

Going back to the spring of 1983, the sisters had presented a proposal to the ministry and were given approval to draw up a master plan for the expansion and upgrading of Marian Villa, St. Mary's Hospital, which is a chronic care facility, and St. Joseph's Hospital, which is an acute care facility. This plan has been considered by the ministry. It is an estimated \$60-million project. It was submitted to the ministry with a request that the ministry fund half the cost of that project, and that is still incorporated in the ministry's master plan.

3:30 p.m.

Ms. E. J. Smith: At the time the negotiations were going on with Grace Villa, a need was established to give these beds to the London area. This would have been done if the negotiations to put them in the private hospital had worked out. The need was established and accepted as being present. It was not part of an ongoing program at that time. It was then asked that these beds, which had been recognized as needed, be put in St. Joseph's instead, not as part of the major expansion but as a separate recognition of an established 60 beds.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Ms. E. J. Smith: I see nothing in the answer so far that would reassure London South that the beds are coming to London South, and immediately. I would like that reassurance since the Sisters of St. Joseph have expressed the willingness to do the necessary adjusting immediately. Will the minister give us that assurance?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I can give no such assurance. I think the need is properly established in that area, as it has been established in many other areas of this province. Certainly as we can deal with priorities and with the financing of those priorities, that is the activity of the Ministry of Health and it will be our program.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr. Sorbara: My question is for the Minister of the Environment and it deals with the government's poor management of landfill sites throughout Ontario, particularly in the riding of York North.

The minister will know that numerous landfill sites across the province were allowed to receive liquid industrial toxic wastes during the past two decades and that these wastes are today leaking into Ontario's drinking water supplies. Two of the worst situations are in the riding of York

North, first of all in Stouffville, where 14 home wells have been contaminated, and in the area of Aurora, where eight wells have been contaminated by the Aurora landfill site.

In view of the provisions that were in the throne speech, can the minister tell us why she has waited until this late date to get tough with polluters? Why has the Conservative government waited until its dying days to introduce changes it will never be able to put into place?

Hon. Ms. Fish: There are indeed problems with landfill sites. Most of the landfill sites that are creating a difficulty for us are municipal or those that were governed by the municipalities to deal with refuse.

The problems stem from two things. First, there was a very different understanding almost two generations ago of the dangers and the problems with some of the things that were put into the landfill sites. Second, a number of the sites took things that were not documented and came to light only during the past few years as the Ministry of the Environment moved to do a series of tests and spot checks on the various landfill sites and waste sites around this province wherever we had any reason to believe a site had any toxics leaking from it, whether by way of gas into the air, which sometimes occurs, or by way of chemicals moving into the water supply.

We have not only tested the supplies on a regular basis but also provided alternative supplies. We have moved with the current owners of the sites, some of which are closed and some of which are active, to establish very stringent controls, and we have worked in every case with the local municipalities to identify the steps necessary to provide for cleanup.

Far from not acting, the Ministry of the Environment has been prepared to apply the best scientific knowledge, the best testing and the best protection to all these areas, even where it has meant, as it often has, reviewing the standards of a day gone by and saying: "Those standards were not strong enough. They must be strengthened. We require remedial action." By the way, we as a government have been prepared to assist in funding that remedial action to offset the cost to the local ratepayers.

Mr. Sorbara: I am surprised at the minister's response. She will know that in the area of Stouffville, in particular, the people of Stouffville pressured the ministry for years to acknowledge a problem that the ministry refused to admit.

Mr. Speaker: Are you surprised enough to ask the question?

Mr. Sorbara: My question is this: Last night, members of the minister's staff acknowledged at a public meeting that fish in Musselman Lake, which is in close proximity to the Stouffville landfill site, are contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls and mercury. In view of that fact, will the minister tell us when she first became aware that tests for these chemicals, PCBs and mercury, were conducted? When did the minister first know or learn that PCBs and mercury have been found in fish in that lake, which she will know is a dead lake?

Hon. Ms. Fish: Obviously, I would have to take under advisement the particular point at which advice came forward. On the more general question, precisely because of a concern about inadequate documentation as well as the change in standards over the last generation or two—and I do not think that point should be missed—and on the recommendation of Ministry of the Environment officials, we have engaged in extensive testing, both in water for water quality and fish testing, and in land and landfill sites.

The key problem in all these areas has been to adequately identify precisely what is in those sites. The member might say, "That is an easy thing; just go and check the records." The difficulty has been that even with municipally owned landfill sites, the records very often are spotty. They do not reflect things that a generation or two ago were uncontrolled and that may well have been deposited. Also, they do not reflect the problems of illegal dumping that have occurred in some cases.

In the Stouffville illustration, we are engaged in a careful examination to determine precisely what is there. We can then ascertain the best possible means of cleanup. The member would agree, as I am sure all members of the House would, that it would be irresponsible in the extreme to introduce unknown toxics into the environment in a haphazard way if we moved in absence of the fullest possible summation.

Mr. Charlton: The minister mentioned in her first answer that the ministry had conducted extensive and tough testing programs to ensure that landfill sites were not leaking. In the case of the Stouffville site, the ministry maintained for a number of years that the site was not leaking. However, in February 1985 we had the release of a hydrogeological study which said not only that the site was leaking but also that the contaminants had long since gone out from there into the environment.

When is the minister going to take a look at the testing programs, which she claims are so tough

and so protective of Ontario's water supply, to find out why they fail so regularly?

Hon. Ms. Fish: The testing programs do not fail. The testing indicates problems. I, as minister, have been prepared to make those publicly funded tests and reports available for public review so we can move in a co-ordinated and informed fashion to deal with the problems. These facts show a willingness to face up to the changes in standards and the consequences in an industrial society where the standards and even the very knowledge of the problems of some of the chemicals we use in industrial processes were simply unknown. The knowledge in some of those areas has become known only in the past few years.

Tough and rigorous testing, the ability to review and assess the requirements, and the willingness to fund on a direct basis as well as to assist municipalities are the responsible actions to deal with protection of the environment.

3:40 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Foulds: I had a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. McCague), who is lurking in the precincts, but in view of his absence I will address it to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, if I could have her attention.

On June 10, the Minister of Transportation and Communications announced, with the cancellation of the GO advanced light rail transit program, in the last sentence, "This new proposal allows us to shorten drastically the implementation time, using GO Transit rolling stock, double-deckers to be built in Thunder Bay, and that means employment in the northwest."

Was the Treasurer aware that, that very same day, Kirk Foley of the Urban Transportation Development Corp. was sending executive bulletin number 44 to all employees indicating that because of the cancellation, all the proposed Via Rail contracts, which would include about 200 cars, had to be funnelled to the Kingston plant? This denied any opportunity for the Via Rail cars to be built in Thunder Bay. Does that mean employment for the northwest?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not aware of the so-called note from Mr. Foley, but I will certainly speak to the Minister of Transportation and Communications about it to try to determine the rationale and the redirection that has been suggested.

If the member has a supplementary, he might direct it to the Minister of Transportation and Communications who is now here.

Mr. Foulds: I would redirect the original question and he could answer personally.

Mr. Speaker: I believe it was suggested that you direct a supplementary.

Mr. Foulds: If he will not, then I will direct a supplementary to the minister. If the minister heard the first question, could he answer it?

Second, what authority does he have when he makes an announcement in this House that gives hope of jobs in the northwest, when the executive officer of UTDC is contradicting that government program and initiative? What control does the minister have over civil servants such as Kirk Foley?

Hon. Mr. McCague: As I recall, I made an announcement about 20 GO Transit bilevel cars that were going to be built in Thunder Bay. I hope the member appreciates that.

As far as I know, the 200 Via Rail cars have not been officially announced yet. There has been lots of speculation and media comment about that. As I understand it, there may be a division of that contract between Thunder Bay and Kingston.

Mr. Foulds: That is not what Kirk Foley says.

Hon. Mr. McCague: I do not have the paper the member has. I am not sure where he got the one he has. That matter is still under consideration. I certainly have not said anything about it at this point, except for the 20 bilevel cars.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: Would you allow the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Eves) to send across his answer to my question asked previously?

Mr. Speaker: I am sure he has heard the request.

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I had a supplementary to ask.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, the time for oral questions has expired.

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order-

Mr. Speaker: What is your point of order?

Mr. Hennessy: I have the same concerns as the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds). Would the minister check into the allocation of the cars?

Mr. Speaker: I will have to ask the honourable member to take his seat.

PETITION

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Taylor: I have a petition signed by 48 people from Prince Edward Collegiate Institute.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas any action to extend public funding to separate Roman Catholic secondary schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas it is uncertain whether extension would contravene the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"Whereas in democratic societies there is a recognized convention which respects the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters are debated in the Legislative Assembly, with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard before an appropriate committee of the Legislature;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government:

"(1) to seek a constitutional referral prior to any implementation to determine whether extension would conflict with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"(2) to debate fully the issue of extension prior to any implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for the people to appear and be heard."

EATON'S LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Speaker: The member for Scarborough-Ellesmere has informed me that he would like to make a personal explanation to correct the record.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Resign.

Mr. Warner: Are you kidding, and make all these guys happy too?

Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: On Thursday last, in the course of my remarks I made a statement to the effect that television station CFTO did not cover the Eaton's strike. Upon investigation and consultation with both CFTO and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, it became evident that CFTO did provide some coverage of the significant struggle of working people to gain a collective agreement. I wish to set the record straight.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITIES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Pope, first reading of Bill 22, An Act to amend Certain Acts respecting Regional Municipalities.

Motion agreed to.

LINE FENCES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Pope, first reading of Bill 23, An Act to amend Certain Acts in relation to Line Fences.

Motion agreed to.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Pope, first reading of Bill 24, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth Act.

Motion agreed to.

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved, seconded by Hon. F. S. Miller, first reading of Bill 25, An Act to amend the District Municipality of Muskoka Act.

Motion agreed to.

MUNICIPALITY OF METROPOLITAN TORONTO AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Pope, first reading of Bill 26, An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto

Motion agreed to.

3:50 p.m.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Timbrell moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Pope, first reading of Bill 27, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act.

Motion agreed to.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Grossman moved, seconded by Hon. Miss Stephenson, first reading of Bill 28, An Act to amend the Education Act.

Motion agreed to.

MINING ACT

Hon. Mr. Harris moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Bernier, first reading of Bill 29, An Act to revise the Mining Act.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

THRONE SPEECH DEBATE (concluded)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session.

Mr. Grandmaître: Realizing that this will be remembered as a very historic day, and because I would not want to be blamed for stalling history, I will relinquish my time to complete my inaugural speech.

Mr. McClellan: I think this is a great day. The fresh air of democratic change is going to be blowing through the halls of Queen's Park after 42 years of one-party rule, and I think it is a great day for democracy.

As we begin the windup to the throne speech debate, I want to offer my personal congratulations to you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to that office. I want to assure you on behalf of myself and my colleagues in the New Democratic Party that we intend to make this minority parliament work, and to that end, we pledge to you our full and complete co-operation. I want to extend my congratulations to your deputies as well. We are genuinely pleased at your selection and we wish you well.

I get paid extra to sit in the House as whip, so I have heard almost all the throne speech debate. I have to say it has been an excellent debate. The 33rd Parliament is a renewed and rejuvenated parliament. I do not think there is any doubt about that. We have heard from most of the new members, at least on this side of the House.

I would like to express my pride in the contributions of the new members who spoke in the throne debate: the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville), the member for Lakeshore (Mrs. Grier), the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay), the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom), the member for Essex North (Mr. Hayes) and the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot). I am especially glad to hear once again in this assembly the contributions of our old friends the member for Ottawa Centre (Ms. Gigantes) and the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Warner).

The New Democratic Party caucus was renewed and rejuvenated in the election of May 2. We are ready to play our full role in this new minority parliament.

I want to congratulate the three leaders on the campaigns they waged. Quite frankly, of the four election campaigns I have been in over the last 10 years, I thought this one was the most free from rancour and the fairest. Those of us who labour in the ridings appreciate such a measure of civility during an election campaign.

While I am giving accolades, it would be useful, and something a little out of the ordinary, to say there has been a change in the quality of the reporting at Queen's Park in the last week or two. I want to call attention to that. For the first time since the period between 1975 and 1977, the Queen's Park press gallery has been paying extraordinary attention to the Legislature. The quality of the reporting of events of the last two weeks has been outstanding, particularly in the Globe and Mail and Toronto Star.

The best line of all, in the course of the last few weeks since May 2, was the line by Mr. Lorrie Goldstein in the Toronto Sun. He wrote, "The Tories want to rise from the ashes without first having been burned at the stake." It cannot be done, but I want to say to the government House leader we are here to help him.

One of the difficulties in winding up the throne speech debate is that I am not sure to whom I am talking on the government side. I look across at the decimated remnant, the scattered remnant, the tattered remains of a once-powerful political dynasty and I do not know which part of the party I am talking to.

4 p.m.

I do not know whether I am addressing the wing of the party that was described by the illustrious Dalton Camp on June 13 as follows, "A party that frittered away an enormous lead in one brief campaign and so cheerfully abandoned its traditional successful moderation for a romance with Reaganism." Am I talking to the Reaganistic remnant? Or am I talking to the group that wrote the throne speech with its 90 dumb socialist ideas and a price tag moderately estimated at between \$1.5 billion and \$2 billion with the magical guarantee that there will be neither a tax increase nor an increase in the deficit? Am I talking to the left or the right? It is equally bizarre. It is difficult to know whom to address.

I want to talk a little bit about what is happening here this afternoon. There has been, if I may say so, an incredible amount of nonsense uttered about what is ultimately going to take place here at six o'clock today. It is no mystery what is happening. There is nothing strange or unusual about what is happening. There is no deviation from 700 years of parliamentary tradition. There is nothing unconstitutional and there is nothing unparliamentary about what is happening here in this assembly. I just want to make sure, whether it be the Reaganesque rump or the dumb socialists over there, that the members over there understand what is happening here today.

An hon. member: Which one are you?

Mr. McClellan: I do not know where the fifth column fits into this scenario. On May 2 the Conservatives lost the election. They lost their majority.

Hon. Mr. Gillies: Did you win?

Mr. McClellan: Did they win a majority of seats? I can still count. They lost their majority. On June 18 they are going to lose the confidence of the majority of the members of the assembly, and that means they lose the right to govern. It is as simple as that. If you do not have the majority in the assembly, you do not have the right to govern.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am going to remember those words. There are two sets of rules for your friends.

Mr. McClellan: The right to govern in the British parliamentary tradition is not bestowed by the crown or by the monarchy. This may come as a surprise to the members over there; this may come as a real revelation. The right to govern is not bestowed even by the Progressive Conservative Party gathered in leadership convention, it is not bestowed by the Tory caucus, it is not bestowed by the Tory cabinet and it is not bestowed even by Segal, Atkins and Tory.

The right to govern is bestowed by the people through their duly elected representatives in parliament, and that is exactly what is happening today. The majority of the members of this assembly are going to vote at six o'clock today to take the right to govern away from that party and to confer that right on another party and another leader. That is all that is happening. Do they know what it is called? It is called democracy, and it is time they learned what will happen here.

Hon. Mr. Pope: That is not what is in the accord.

An hon. member: And they do not like it.

Mr. McClellan: And they do not like it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am going to use this Hansard again.

Mr. McClellan: That is what the 700 years of parliamentary tradition are all about.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We will be using this one in October.

Mr. McClellan: The right to govern is conferred by parliament, and governments are accountable to parliament. We have put an end to 42 years of one-party rule, cabinet government and cabinet domination of this assembly by the Conservative Party.

What this country needs is a good right-wing party. Whatever has happened to right-wing politics?

What upsets my friends more than anything else is that democracy is alive and well in Ontario. That is what they do not like; that is what they find so offensive.

I would like to talk for a minute about why this is going to happen to them after 42 glorious years.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You do not want an election.

Mr. McClellan: No, I do not want an election.

The deer looking for the hunting licence. The most horrible thing that can happen to my friend the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick is that an election will be called before he has an opportunity to do what it is necessary to do.

Interjections.

Mr. McClellan: This is not an orthodox view. I do not think what happened on May 2 had to do with leadership particularly or with whether the real Frank Miller was met and encountered by the people of Ontario. I do not think that is the explanation of what happened. I think their problem started long before he was elected leader. It started many years before election day on May 2.

Their problem started on March 19, 1981, when they got their majority back, turned their back on the process of reform and announced it with the kind of arrogance those of us who have lived in this assembly in the past four years will never forget. I will never forget the then Premier's words about the new realities of March 19. Then we saw the iron curtain come down and the new ice age begin.

Some of us were here. If the members opposite have not learned the lesson of March 19, that is their problem. During an election a party usually campaigns on its record. During the 1985 election campaign I cannot remember this government going to the people and saying: "Look what we have done for you. Look at the

record." That was because there was a vacuum, a black hole; there was nothing there, no record.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell: Nonsense.

Mr. McClellan: What is the record of the last four years? The government gave us a provincial bird—the blue jay—a provincial tree, wine content legislation, various pieces of anti-worker legislation; Bill 179 that ripped up more than 200 valid and binding contracts and rolled back the wages of public sector workers. It was rammed through this House by using closure. That is part of the record. In honour of the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul, the transit workers' strike was smashed two weeks before it even started. That is the record of the past four years.

In 1981 the Progressive Conservative Party turned its back on the process of reform that was initiated with the election of the first minority government in 1975. It repudiated the reform process, torpedoed it, brought it to an end and systematically undermined reforms that had been enacted in the minority period between 1975 and 1981.

4:10 p.m.

If I may recall a brief anecdote, during one of the sessions when the New Democratic Party negotiating team was meeting with the Liberal Party negotiating team, we presented for the first time a document outlining our proposed agenda for reform. I think one of my Liberal colleagues said it looked like the Eaton's catalogue. It was a long list. I do not think I am telling tales out of school. My colleague the member for St. David (Mr. Scott) read the list and said, "My God, this is the unfulfilled reform program of an entire generation." It was a very perceptive comment.

Mr. Nixon: A very perceptive member.

Mr. McClellan: A very perceptive member. That is exactly what it was, and that is exactly what has happened in this province. There is an entire generation of Canadians who live in Ontario, whose aspirations for fundamental social and economic reform have been frustrated by the Conservative Party and the Conservative government in this province. A process of reform was initiated in 1975 under the first two minority governments, but when they had their 72 seats, when they came back here with the gang of 72, that was the end of it.

An hon. member: It was 70.

Mr. McClellan: It was 70. I thought it was 72. The gang of 72 has a better ring to it. I am sorry.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: It was so popular we added two more seats.

Mr. Rae: It felt like 72.

Mr. McClellan: It felt like 72.

Mr. Martel: It means they just lost that many more on election day.

Mr. McClellan: After March 19 we had a government of studious inactivity and lassitude that did nothing session after session. My colleague the New Democratic Party House leader and I pleaded with the government House leader in session after session: "Please, please give us something to do. We are going crazy in here. We are bored to death." There was session after session of absolutely nothing in the way of a legislative program. There was do-nothing session after do-nothing session, culminating finally in the announcement on October 8, 1984, by the Premier that he was retiring and retreating to his office for the next four months. We never saw him again.

What did the government do during this four-year period? I have enumerated: the birds, the trees, the wine content, the anti-worker legislation. There was the worst depression in my lifetime, the worst depression since the 1930s, and it did nothing about it.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Oh, yes; this province led the country out of the depression, that is what this province did.

Mr. Rae: Government members sat on their butts the whole time. There was not a single piece of reform, nothing on pensions, nothing on severance, nothing at all. We went through that session with nothing.

Mr. McClellan: Youth unemployment rose to its highest levels since the 1930s, and the government did nothing about it. That is its record.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Creating jobs is reform, my friend. When you talk about reform, all you talk about is spending.

Mr. McClellan: Now we have the throne speech.

Mr. Rae: What the hell is in the throne speech?

Mr. Martel: What have you done for the last five years?

Mr. Rae: You wrote the book on spending.

Mr. McClellan: It contains \$2 billion worth of promises. Now we have the deathbed repentance, the conversion on the road to Damascus. If St. Paul was travelling on the road to Damascus, he would have to turn back; there is such a traffic jam he could not get through.

We have 90 promises, costing \$2 billion with no taxes and no deficit. My friend the government House leader has the nerve to quibble, to challenge and to attack the use of the phrase "within a framework of fiscal responsibility." That is because the government does not know anything about it.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Are the members opposite all feeling well?

Mr. McClellan: I am feeling fine. How are you feeling?

I want to go through some of the promises that are in the throne speech, this rich cafeteria of ideas in the throne speech, because I do not understand it. There is something I am missing here. There are 90 socialist ideas in the throne speech.

Why did the government not do it when it had its majority of 72 seats? Why did it not do it in 1981, 1982, 1983 or 1984? I do not understand; I am missing something. It had the chance to do all of these things. It had all the chance in the world to do all of these things when it had its majority.

I want to look in a little bit of detail at some of these promises in the throne speech and some of the statements that have come down in the House in the last few days from ministers who did nothing in their portfolios between 1981 and 1985. It is difficult to assess the degree of chutzpah and gall involved in this throne speech. They had the nerve to talk about reforms to the Occupational Health and Safety Act. What did they do when they had 72 members and an absolute majority in this assembly?

I would remind members that one of the most important reforms of the minority government period was the enactment of the Occupational Health and Safety Act in 1978. That bill made it possible for government to designate by regulation toxic and hazardous substances in the work place, to establish exposure guidelines for toxic substances, to make sure that workers were not exposed to those toxic substances and to give workers the right to refuse work if they were exposed to toxic or hazardous substances.

In 1978, during the minority government period, the government made a commitment that it would identify biological, chemical and physical agents that were hazardous to workers and would pass regulations establishing exposure levels. We raised questions of the ministry in 1979 to ask for a progress report with respect to the designation of hazardous substances.

I am going into some detail on this because the recycled Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) said on June 13, on page 5 of his statement, that he had

some new initiatives in the area of toxic substance regulation. He is going to do something about toxic substance regulation.

I have a list that was given to me in the estimates debate in 1979 by this same minister. It is a list of 52 biological, chemical and physical agents. There is a schedule attached to it; it is work plan. I will read what it says: "The ministry has developed a priority listing of 52 biological, chemical and physical agents. This list has been used to develop the work plan set out below."

For 1980-81, the work plan called for the designation by regulation of 22 hazardous substances, so that workers could be protected. For 1982-83, it called for 12 additional substances so that workers could be protected. I am sorry, I missed a year. For 1981-82, the work plan called for the designation of 10 substances to protect workers from deadly exposure; and for 1983, an additional 10, for a total of 52 to be regulated by the end of 1984.

Do you know what the record is, Mr. Speaker? Since 1978 this government has regulated nine substances. Workers are exposed and without protection, and the Minister of Labour had the nerve to come before us on June 13 and say he now intends to take action on this matter. I find it difficult to understand how anyone, after six years and the designation of nine substances, would have the nerve to come forward now and say: "Give us one more chance. We are going to do it now after all. Now that we have lost the election, now that we have lost our majority, now that we are on our knees begging to stay in office, we are going to do something about it."

Mr. Mackenzie: They have not earned the right.

4:20 p.m.

Mr. McClellan: That is precisely the point. On that one point alone, this government has lost the right to govern as far as we are concerned.

The inventory of frustrated reform extends to almost every item on the throne speech list. We are promised reform of our tenant protection legislation. The minister who stalled and dilly-dallied on tenant protection laughs and chuckles. Do you remember, Mr. Speaker, that in 1978 this Legislature passed the Residential Tenancies Act, section 33 of which set up a rent registry so tenants would be protected from landlords who were charging illegal rents? That was done by the reform parliament in 1978, and when the government got its majority back in 1981 it refused to proclaim section 33. It refused to set up a rent registry and instead set up a royal commission. Thanks very much.

The government set up a royal commission in 1982 to deal with the urgent problem of illegal rents and the need to set up a rent registry. The commission was given a blank cheque and an unlimited time frame and away it went to spend the people's money and have a circus of hearings to rediscover the wheel. After two and a half years—I think my time sequence is right—in the fall of 1984 the commission recommended that a rent registry be set up.

What did this government with a gang of 72 do? Did it set up a rent registry? No. It appointed Gordon Walker as the minister in charge of rent review, and he said it would take at least another year before he figured out how to set up a rent registry. We had a bill passed in 1978 with a section setting up a rent registry, and this government, when it got its majority back, said it would take at least 10 years to figure out—

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Vince Kerrio figured all that out.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You already did, Bob. It is right there in the throne speech.

Mr. McClellan: It is in the throne speech.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Tell us what you are going to do, Vince.

Mr. Kerrio: I am ready.

Mr. McClellan: Let us wait and see who does what. Nothing under the sun could be worse than this government's record.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: We will see.

Mr. McClellan: Another of the big initiatives during the minority period was pension reform. Remember pension reform? Does the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) have a pension plan? It is a good plan, is it not? Is it not a shame that the majority of workers in Ontario do not have such a good pension plan? Is it not a shame that this government did nothing during the past four years?

Interjections.

Mr. McClellan: Let us review the record. Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. McClellan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are completely out of control today; no decorum.

The government was concerned about pensions during the reform minority period of the 1970s. What did it do? Guess. It set up a royal commission. Here is the report, dated 1980. The royal commission made a series of recommendations about reforming Ontario's moronic pension legislation, absolutely imbecilic legislation.

What did the government do? It set up a select committee to study the royal commission report.

In those days, I had been here only six years. I still took these guys seriously; I thought they were serious. I was on the select committee, and so was the present leader of the Liberal Party, then a loyal follower of Stuart Smith.

The select committee on pensions reported in 1981 and again in 1982, and there was an absolute consensus with respect to reform of private pension legislation, an absolute consensus among all three parties and a consensus within the finance community, the insurance community and the business community. The chairman knows I am speaking the truth. There was a consensus on what needed to be done to bring about portability, vesting and inflation indexing.

What did this government do? Absolutely nothing. We went through the depression of 1982 and 1983, and tens of thousands of workers in this province lost their jobs. Older workers lost their jobs and they lost every dime of their pension entitlement because this government had done nothing to reform our pension legislation. That is a good part of the record of the past four years.

I can go on and on. I could go on for days.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Okay.

Mr. McClellan: But I will not. I will just give a litany. We went through exactly the same process on family law reform and on equal pay for work of equal value. Do members remember? We passed a bill in this assembly in 1978. The Tories still have not figured it out.

Regarding services to the elderly, one of the announcements we had last week from the new Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Eves) was for an integrated home care program, with no legislation. No legislation means no program. We have been waiting for the legislation, which was promised in 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1983 and 1984.

Why do we have no legislation? Some of our new members may not know this. It is because the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services cannot agree on which ministry will deliver the service, and there is nobody over there with the guts to bash heads together and say, "You are going to do this and you are not, and here is the legislation." They have dithered.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We did not need the legislation.

Mr. McClellan: Nothing could be worse than their record, nothing. They play games with

elderly people's services. The property tax grants are mentioned in the throne speech. Give me a break. They have not adjusted the elderly persons' property tax credit since 1980. The purchasing power of those credits has been eroded 50 per cent. Where were they in the past four years in restoring the purchasing power of the property tax credit? Here it is in the throne speech, one of their miracle conversion discoveries.

Where were they regarding extra billing, or forests, or medically necessary travel, or housing or whatever it is? They had four years of unprecedented opportunity with a clear majority and they squandered it, they wasted it, they dithered, they fiddled around. On May 2, 1985, the people of this province said: "Enough. Get out. You are finished." The government said: "No. Trust us. Give us one more chance."

I have some bad news for them. There is a new majority in this assembly and a brand-new agenda for reform, and that is what is going to determine the work of this minority parliament. Whether they like it or not, there is a new agenda for reform, and that is going to be the agenda for this reform parliament. The process of reform that was started in 1975 is going to be re-established, and they are not going to be able to stop it this time.

4:30 p.m.

I am proud of the role of the New Democratic Party in putting these items on the political agenda of this province, many of them as long ago as 10 or 15 years. Our party set the agenda for this election and our party has contributed to setting the agenda for this parliament. I said before and I say again, we are committed to making this parliament work.

We are not the government. We continue to function as an opposition party. That may be news to the members opposite. We are prepared to function in opposition. The Conservatives are going to have a hard time functioning in opposition. There is a whole new world of skills development opening up for them. Some of their members are going to have to learn how to speak. Some of them are going to have to learn how to talk. Some of them are going to have to learn how to speak without speechwriters. They are going to have to learn how to get to work without a limousine and a chauffeur.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: On the other hand, we have not signed away our right to object.

Mr. McClellan: Neither have we. This parliament will function item by item with two

opposition parties. We will be free of the Russian roulette that characterized the Tory routine.

Mr. Rae: The blackmail.

Mr. McClellan: The blackmail.

This is going to be hard for them to understand. Each and every piece of legislation is going to be dealt with on its merits. Each and every piece of legislation will have to win the support of a majority in the assembly to pass. I know that is very strange for them. Imagine voting for something on its merits instead of at the point of a gun. What an awful basis for decision-making; it certainly seems to be for the Conservative Party.

I have gone on too long.

Some hon. members: More, more.

Mr. McClellan: They have gone on too long. I have unburdened myself of some thoughts about the governing party. I want to offer some advice to my colleagues in the Liberal Party who may be flushed with victory. Again this may be strange, but my advice to them is to be generous with the opposition, including the Conservative opposition. We have had enough vindictive, punitive, mean-spirited arrogance and gloating from that side to last a lifetime.

My friends have a real chance to break that cycle of crime and punishment, or victory and gloating, and to establish a new spirit in this Legislature that treats back-benchers and opposition members with civility, respect and courtesy. That would be a real revolution in this place. I urge them to seize the opportunity and not to yield to the temptation to be as mean-spirited and vindictive in victory as they were on March 19.

Finally, on behalf of my own caucus colleagues I want to thank our leader, the member for York South (Mr. Rae), for the work he did during the election campaign and most especially for the work he has done since the election campaign. The New Democratic Party and the people who voted for the New Democratic Party on May 2 can take enormous pride in the kind of leadership the member for York South has given since the events of the election.

The 25 per cent of the people in this province who voted for the New Democratic Party understand they are not at the margin, the edge or the outside of politics. They are right at the centre writing the agenda. They are going to be making this parliament work and they are going to be winning gains for the people of this province for the next two years and beyond.

Mr. Nixon: I want to congratulate the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven) on his election as

Deputy Speaker of this House. He and I share the responsibility of representing that great county. In so doing, we have become very close friends. I used to presume to walk along the back row, which unfortunately made it quite handy for me to talk to him in that circumstance, and be able to talk to him over the back railing about some of the major decisions made in politics by him and his party. Because of that, I have established a firm friendship with him, and I am looking forward to the operation of this House under his direction as Deputy Speaker.

I also want to extend my congratulations to the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer), the Speaker, another long-time friend of mine. I believe I attended his first nomination in 1963 and have known him since that time. The member for Perth went from a rather shaky start electorally to the point where he commanded the largest majority of any member in the House at one stage. He slipped a little bit this time. He has a larger majority than most members of this House, but he was surpassed by the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Curling), who represents the constituency that was formerly represented by our present Agent General in London, Tom Wells. Members may remember that in the election of 1981, Tom Wells commanded the largest majority in Ontario, which is an indication of what happens in politics when the people decide there is going to be a change, as they did decide on May 2.

I have a bit of advice for Mr. Speaker. He has all the looks and brains to command the respect of this House for four years, perhaps eight years or perhaps even longer than that, but he has a problem he is going to face in the very next few days, and that is how to accommodate the Tories on the opposition side, a problem that has not been put to any Speaker in this House for many years. Not many members present, or even those in the galleries, will recall observing the Legislature when the seating plan was a bit different from what it is now. I doubt if one could jam all those well-fed Tories into these seats and leave the NDP where it is, without really causing a problem.

Interjections.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: Actually I was told that the Conservative Party was going to listen to this debate with dignity and care, but I notice that the present Minister of Education (Mr. Grossman) has left the chamber briefly, and I guess that accounts for their lack of discipline during these few moments. However, he is now entering these

precincts, and I am sure, Mr. Speaker, you will observe careful and quiet attention while their master is in his place.

I also want to suggest to you, sir, that if you look at the seating plans beginning in 1934, and unfortunately ending in 1943, the arrangement of these seats was in a semi-circle. It was convenient for all members to take their places without crowding. They had direct access to the Speaker and the acoustics were much better.

There were those parliamentary purists who were worried that because we were not conformed exactly like Westminster, somehow or other the attributes of parliamentary practice might be lost. But it seems to me a practical solution to the problems of accommodating the 124 members of this House in the present division among parties, and I seriously suggest it to you and your colleagues in the group that administers the actual day-to-day operation of the House.

I have been quite caught by the phrase that has been used by a number of members, "the realities of May 2." The present leader of the government has been slow to understand these realities. We have seen his statements during these six weeks in what was almost an embarrassing series of changing positions, attempting day by day to find a formula to remove the risk of the final defeat of conservatism in this House after 42 years. He began with great confidence, although it was obvious to any observer of politics in this province that the results on May 2 would spell the defeat of the present administration.

One of the things that has maintained the Conservatives during many years, even though more people voted against their party than voted for it election after election, was the distribution of the opposition vote. But because of the outstanding campaign waged by my colleague the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson), soon to be Premier, this historic distribution was changed dramatically. He now comes into this House with 48 members, and it was obvious to the New Democratic Party that if a change was to be accomplished, it would necessitate some sort of arrangement with the present official opposition so that in combination, with 72 votes, we could command the confidence of this chamber.

I felt the decisions taken by the NDP were admirable. They discussed the matter with both parties, the Progressive Conservatives and the Liberals, and as a member of the negotiating team on behalf of the Liberals I found the negotiations important, effective and, to some degree, a historic landmark in democratic and

parliamentary procedures. We spent 15 hours in these negotiations. They were productive and, I am glad to say, amicable. This is an attribute that I hope is going to be the earmark of the 33rd Legislature, not only among the two present opposition parties but among all parties, as we see the responsibilities we face, discuss these responsibilities as they are put before us in legislation and enact and administer our solutions to these problems in a way that we believe will be for the benefit of this whole province.

The present Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller), who will be speaking to the House in a few moments, has had difficulty adapting to the realities of May 2. When confronted by the possibility of an agreement between the two opposition parties, he said it would have to go to the courts because it was obviously illegal; that there is a law somewhere that says the Tories cannot lose votes in this chamber. After he consulted some of the Tory lawyers, he found there was no such law and that he would have to look elsewhere.

He made a number of statements. He referred to the New Democratic Party as the party of misery and hate. He referred to the prospect of a Liberal government as being loathsome. Just yesterday, he indicated that if a Liberal government came into office in this province, business would flee. He may have been talking about Santa's Village Inc. However, I can assure the House the agreement entered into between the two current opposition parties is based on a commitment to fiscal responsibility that is of as much concern to the two parties entering into that agreement as anything else. I can assure the House that whatever my responsibilities may be in the future I consider myself to be one of the principal watchdogs in that regard.

In the attitudes taken by the Premier and his principal advisers—each of them just barely below the surface vying for a principal position in leadership—on a day-to-day basis, in bringing forward not only a speech from the throne that really cribbed all of the outstanding election platforms put forward by the Liberal Party and the NDP during the election, but also in these statements as the ministers rose in their places day by day as the Tory political corpse twisted in the wind, there was something unnatural, something shocking. It was like looking at a corpse that winks.

There did not seem to be any sense to the fact that the present Premier, who is a good politician—he has seen what happens in this Legislature; he has had to face certain realities in the past and will again later today and probably in the next two or three months—did not in any way even seem to see when the agreement was made public, with the signatures of the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the NDP, that the jig was up.

If he had any sort of grace-and-favour approach to the particular circumstances, he might very well have called in the two leaders and said: "Is this right? Is this what you are going to do?" He would have had the assurances from them in person and would have done the honourable thing—walked down the hall to the Lieutenant Governor and proffered his resignation.

We have not had any business in this chamber since December 1984. We are currently spending the last few dollars of an \$8-billion appropriation, not from this Legislature, but approved by the Lieutenant Governor and the Management Board of Cabinet. What sort of democracy is that?

The Minister of Education has not seen fit to introduce the long-heralded bill dealing with separate schools. There has been no business conducted by the Legislature for six weeks. The Premier has looked over these numbers, frontwards, backwards and sideways. Finally, he was forced to the reality that the Progressive Conservative Party will be out of power as of about an hour and 10 minutes from now. I personally resent the fact that the leader of the government has taken this stand. He is even now waiting for what he calls a miracle.

A miracle will not happen. The miracle, perhaps, is that democracy is going to operate and the government is going to be brought to an end with an assumption to office of the Leader of the Opposition as the new Liberal Premier.

I want to say something that is nostalgic for me. One of the things that I found somewhat amusing in the statements made by the Premier was his glee, expressed at his regular morning press conference, at finding that he was not going to be the shortest-serving Premier in the history of the province. It is great that he feels that way.

4:50 p.m.

I want to say something about the shortestserving Premier. He was my father, my predecessor as the member for Brant, Harry Nixon. As a matter of fact, his career in one small particular parallels that of the present Premier. He was successful in winning the leadership at a contested convention, on the basis that an election would be held without delay in 1943. This legislative chamber in those days had extended its life twice beyond its constitutional limit. It is an interesting prospect when we think that can actually happen without the Ontario Provincial Police or somebody coming in and saying, "You cannot do that." He felt democracy had to be served by an election, went immediately to the people, and I suppose the rest is history. The Liberals ended up as a small group at the end of this chamber and so began 42 years of Tory rule.

However, I just want to say a word about it. He was elected in 1919. He and I have had the honour of serving Brant without a break and that is why I hesitate to talk about it being time for a change. He came into this House as a part of a government which was a co-operation between two parties, the United Farmers of Ontario and the Labour Party. Further in his career he was leader of a party called the Progressives and as the Progressive leader he entered into an arrangement with the leader of the Liberal Party, Mitchell F. Hepburn, which saw the defeat of the Conservatives in 1934.

The sorts of things that are happening in this House now are democratic. They are a part of the traditions of this House and they serve to give us stability and effectiveness in government. It is too bad the Tories do not understand that simple lesson in constitutional history.

I wanted to speak about another lesson of history which I think is important for all of us. When the former member for Brant, the shortestserving Premier in the history of the province, came into another new government in 1934 he was faced with three terribly difficult issues. Ontario Hydro had contracts that were unconscionably expensive for the purchase of power from private sources in Quebec. Right now we, as a possible new government, are looking at contracts that were imposed on Ontario Hydro by then premier Bill Davis, which are unconscionable as far as we can understand them, because the contracts are not public. They lead us to buy uranium from Canadian companies mining in northern Ontario at the cost of something around \$90 a pound and going upwards almost in perpetuity when the spot world price is \$20 a pound. We can see the comparison; it is very similar.

There was a liquor issue in 1934. The Liberal government came in as an iconoclastic group, proposing the sale of beer by the glass. Can we imagine the debate that brought forward. Think of the comparisons now, particularly when it may be that some time in the future all members of the House will have an opportunity to examine legislation of a similar nature, express their views and cast their votes.

The previous speaker in this debate, the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan)—and I congratulate him on his speech—indicated that under the situation that is coming up with our agreement the members will be able to debate and vote as they see fit, not under some whip of an artificial election threat that was so much a part of the Conservative government back in the minority days. It is an extremely valuable thing.

The last issue in 1934 is one I want to speak about briefly, and that is there was a substantial controversy over the funding of separate schools. We have that same controversy even now, although every member of this Legislature, with the possible exception of the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock), was elected on the promise to extend aid to the Roman Catholic separate schools.

Mr. Breaugh: And the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling).

Mr. Nixon: No, the member for Carleton-Grenville did not oppose that before the election; he was all in favour. It is a little confusing because I understood it was the member for Hastings-Peterborough who had indicated he was not in favour and the member for Carleton-Grenville is another one of those road-to-Damascus converts since he has come here.

I just want to make it clear to you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues in this House that whether you say so, or whether the public says so, or not, it was an issue in the election. Not one of us went to an all-candidates meeting but what it was put to us in very strong terms from those opposing and those supporting the concept and we answered and responded.

In my own case, the Progressive Conservative nominee had a change of mind, a change of heart five days before the end, and the net result of the election was that he was beaten even more soundly than when he ran in 1981. The only difference was that he was a Queen's Counsel this time; I am not sure whether that helped him or not.

Do not get the idea we have come here without accepting the promise of extending aid to the Roman Catholic separate school system. I want to say something about the background of this because no one knows it better than I do. We very definitely remember in 1969-70, and the years just around that time, the extension of support to grades 9 and 10 by the Progressive Conservative government of the day.

I remember John Robarts standing at his place in this House and announcing what he called the foundation tax plan that replaced the dollars the Roman Catholic schools might have had if they had access to commercial and industrial assessment with extra grants voted by this House. There was no reference to the courts. It was carried through the House after debate and was considered by all members to be a forward step.

In the late 1960s, the issue of Roman Catholic school financing became ever more pressing. The leader on behalf of the Roman Catholic community was Archbishop Pocock, an extremely capable and fine gentleman. He spoke to the politicians whenever he could, particularly the Education critics, and I was one, and the leaders of the parties. A bit later, I was the leader of our party. Bill Davis was the Minister of Education and later the Premier. The New Democratic Party representative, Donald MacDonald, is in the House at present enjoying this to the full, probably regretting that he cannot speak as soon as I sit down, and other New Democrats were involved.

I can assure the members that the arguments, constitutional and otherwise, were put in their strongest and most effective ways. Everyone agreed it was a divisive issue then as it could be now. We moved forward as three parties discussing this in the community at a time when our budget was balanced—the last balanced budget we had was in 1971, as John Robarts left the scene—at a time when the number of students was growing rapidly in both systems, and at a time when the reform of the secondary system would mean the abolition of grade 13, leaving only two grades for completion.

These were matters that led us and the NDP and thoughtful people in the PC party to move in as careful a way as possible towards the reality of accepting the policy on all sides, doing what we considered in our best judgement—we might be wrong—to be legal, constitutional and eminently fair for all concerned.

In the 1971 election, after Mr. Davis took over the leadership of the PC party, the issue was established. He had indicated to all interested that he would be making a statement in this regard. Everyone thought he would be moving either partially or all the way towards funding. The members can imagine my feeling as leader of the Liberal Party and Leader of the Opposition when he had a press conference and said there would not be another nickel for Catholic schools. He soon announced there would be an election and he certainly hoped this important issue would not surface during the campaign.

It was an extremely serious matter. Many of us here now lived through that campaign. As a Liberal Party, naturally this was an important issue we defended, and we will continue to defend it, and the election results were quite obvious. The Progressive Conservative Party won. It may have been because they stopped the Spadina expressway or it may have been because Bill Davis was a handsome leader—who knows?—but certainly an issue in that campaign was Roman Catholic school funding.

In the election of 1975, our position remained the same. We said that if elected we would establish a committee of the House representing all parties to go across the province and talk to people concerned with it so that it could be implemented in a way that would meet the needs of the community.

5 p.m.

The then Premier, Bill Davis, who felt slightly under the gun—it turned out that he did not have to worry too much—made a speech saying: "Remember Nixon's promise in 1971. We will never change. There will be no more money for Catholic schools. That is a fact."

Mr. Speaker, you can imagine how surprised I was that day in June, about a year ago, knowing the Progressive Conservative Party was having a special caucus in the hall right across from my office. The bells were ringing to call us to prayer. I came out of my office and Roy McMurtry, now His Excellency our High Commissioner in London, came up beside me. He took my arm and said, "You are going to be interested in the Premier's announcement today."

I had thought that in preparation for a fall election, he might announce full funding to the end of grade 10 rather than funding at the elementary school level. Instead, he rose in his place and said he had examined the constitutional requirements, and fairness in all proportions dictated the acceptance of full funding. There was a standing ovation all around. I was a little reluctant to get up but I got up. Indeed, every person over there got up and gave him full support for converting his policy 180 degrees.

This meant when the election campaign came, even though there was agreement among the three parties, that still would be an issue. The citizens would let us know their views, but all parties stood firm. We feel we can accomplish it in the deadline. We believe all the difficulties can be put aside, particularly by debate of this House made up of new members, all elected in support of that position. It can go to a committee for the fullest discussion and we can move on to the funding of grade 11, as has been promised by every member here.

I felt a cold hand on my heart as the present Minister of Education got up today and indicated he had examined nine drafts of the bill and none of them was satisfactory. I am not sure what he meant by that, but if there is any thought from the Minister of Education, the present leader or his successor of moving to make that a divisive issue as it has been in the past, then I ask them most solemnly to give it their careful reconsideration. There should be no thought that this matter is going to tear this province apart again.

I believe the results of the vote an hour from now are something we can predict with some surety. There was a moment at the Board of Internal Economy meeting yesterday afternoon when I thought I had blown it, but the flexibility, generosity and understanding of the New Democratic Party are sufficient even unto that situation. It appears the Tories are within an hour of the end of the road of 42 years. My colleague Harry Worton, who is sitting in the gallery, used to say to me, when there were moments of some despair, some lagging of confidence during the 1960s and 1970s, "Bob, it is a long road without a turning." The road is about to turn.

I say to my tense friends on the other side that it is not bad. Actually, the Deputy Premier (Miss Stephenson), who is already scowling at me and shaking her head, cannot wait to sit over here. She cannot wait to take on the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway). Is that not going to be something? That is going to be something.

The Deputy Premier had it right in her quotes yesterday, in trying to balance the comments made by the Premier. I cannot quote her, but she said: "We are not bloodied. We are not bowed. I do not hurt." That is right. Anybody who thinks there is any dishonour in a political defeat certainly does not know much about this system.

The government is going to be beaten. It is going to happen. The ministers are going to have all this extra money to hire these poor sycophants they have had around them, clutching at the hem of their garments and holding the doors of their limousines. They are all great people. But they are going find in the next few days that the shredders are going to die down; they are not going to be run all over the weekend or anything like that. All the stuff is going to be shredded. It is my job to piece together most of that stuff.

They will find the phones will not ring quite as much. The stack of correspondence to sign will not be six inches thick; it will be three quarters of an inch thick, and probably all the same letter, thanking the people for their advice on the school question and that sort of stuff. They are going to

find that the reporters are friendly, although they will not remember their wives' names quite as well as they had and that sort of thing. They will be very good. Their speaking engagements are going to thin out a bit, but I will help them get an invitation from the United Church women of Glen Morris if they really have a lot of time left over.

I do not think they should really feel apprehensive. A week from now they are going to think, "This is great." They can read the paper all the way through. They can talk to their friends. They can go down to lunch when they want to without people calling them to the phone. They will be able to look out the window and contemplate both the past and the future. Some of them, of course, will be phoning up their campaign managers, but that is their responsibility.

We in the Liberal Party are on the verge of new and important responsibilities. If offered, we intend to accept the responsibility of government. We have a clear public agreement with the New Democratic Party members of this assembly to maintain electoral stability for two years while a clearly understood program is implemented.

This does not mean that the Tories cannot bring their no-confidence motions in as prescribed by the rules. We can debate them for an afternoon on certain occasions. I can predict now that the votes on those no-confidence motions will be 72 for confidence and 52 against, as long as we do our job properly.

To tell the truth, I am hoping the Conservatives over there, not being implacable, mindless politicians, will see that our reform programentered into with co-operation and to some large and important degree independently our own, but all of it a program upon which we stood in the last election, all of which we campaigned for—is going to be worthy of their support. It has already been put in their own speech from the throne; so we can count on 100 per cent support.

This is an historic day, but we should not allow it to be blown out of proportion. One of the ministers, in eight or 10 statements made earlier, referred to the Barrie situation. It was the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Mr. Leluk), because we are going to have a Frank Miller memorial library in Grand Valley, if that is it. It is our unbelievably good fortune to be in a part of the world where this assembly concerns itself with a triple-A credit rating rather than with 1,000 per cent inflation; that we concern ourselves with extra billing by doctors rather than with a mortality rate, as in some countries, of positively medieval proportions; that we are

concerned with the overproduction of food rather than with starvation camps full of children; that we are concerned with the pollution of our bathing beaches, not with how the government is going to bury the bodies left by a tidal wave; that we are concerned with policing speed limits, not with daily terrorism and mayhem.

5:10 p.m.

I thought about those things and I could list them further. The point is that we are engrossed in the politics of what we are doing. A government is going to change. Forty-two years of tradition, not all of it bad, is going to be replaced with a new government. But when we look at the problems of the world, ours pale into insignificance.

Every one of us shares in this good fortune: residents of Ontario, citizens of Canada and members of this assembly. We also share in a responsibility to be generous—my very word—and broadminded because of it, to look beyond our differences and to realize that all of us are committed to honest, open government with fairness and equity for all.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It certainly is a historic day today in our province, one that will be remembered for a long time by those of us who have followed the events and by the thousands of people watching us via the media. I wish we could have this kind of attention every day. It is the kind of attention we deserve in this House, but so seldom get. We would all benefit by the scrutiny of and participation in the political process.

I listened to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) talking today as he went through the traditional congratulations to the Speaker, and it took my mind back. I too want to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker. By coincidence, the first time I spoke in a debate on the speech from the throne, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk was the leader of the Liberal Party and Stephen Lewis was the leader of the New Democratic Party, and I was chosen to follow those two. I have told the story often.

The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk stood up and referred to his father, as he did today, and he told with pride how he had learned his politics at his father's knee and how he was even more proud to follow his father into this House and become the leader of the Liberal Party. As is usual—well, almost always—he gave a good speech. Then Stephen Lewis stood up and said he would not be outdone by the Liberal leader: "I am even more proud because my father currently is the leader of the NDP in Ottawa. I am the leader

of the NDP in Ontario, and I learned my politics at my father's knee." Again, he gave a great speech. Stephen Lewis could soar to heights with his rhetoric.

Like all engineers, I had a seven-minute, condensed, concise, thoughtful speech, but I had nothing in it of this kind of thing, nothing about my political background because I had none. I said I had a problem. I had listened to the other two leaders speak, and I thought back to my political background and to my father. He died when I was 13. I did not recall his telling me which party he supported. So, unlike the other two, I was able to choose the right one.

I have told that often. It is in Hansard, and it happens to be true. It probably caused the three of us to have the kind of close friendships that often exist in this House.

I came in today and looked at the white carnations worn by the members of the NDP. That is not their normal colour, although they should certainly pale today. I wondered, why white, why a sign of purity. It is, as my colleague the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) said, a sign of surrender. They are losing their pristine purity of principle and prostituting themselves for power. That is what they are doing. It is the last day they will be able to wear white and be credible.

I listened to my colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. I have always respected him as one who knows more about the rules of the House than does almost anybody else, but I have to correct him on one point. Really, he knows a government must be defeated before it goes to the Lieutenant Governor. Yes, he does.

That is why we are here today and that is why we have followed the time-honoured tradition of the House, entering the speech from the throne, going through the required eight days, facing our peers in this House and honouring the result as we must in a parliamentary system under the rules as we understand them.

I think there are few greater honours than being an elected member of a parliament. It is a humbling experience. Believe me, I know. It reminds us that for all its drawbacks, for all its frustrations, there is no greater calling than public life. I for one will always be thankful for the privilege of having had a chance to serve my community and my province in whatever way I could.

As a new Premier heading a new government, I am especially pleased today to speak in support of the speech from the throne, because this is the first chance I have had to do so since I became the

party leader, and I am the leader of a great party. It is an innovative, a comprehensive, a balanced, a responsive program for the upcoming session of this House, and I bet members opposite will adopt it. It is a credit to all of us on the government side of this House that criticism of the proposals has been really quite muted during this throne debate.

As someone whose background is in small business, who knows how important it is to have a job and to be able to create jobs, I am particularly happy and proud of the measures in our throne speech, which the opposition parties would not have had, designed to encourage job creation and economic growth.

Those of us in the Progressive Conservative Party have a great respect for economic growth because we know that is the answer, the only answer to providing for the social services of our fellow citizens, the ones they have every right to expect. I learned before that it takes a good, solid, dependable government to attract the investments which create jobs. Indeed, we know that economic growth means jobs, jobs mean security and security means self-respect and the ability to provide for ourselves and assist others.

We are going to create 200,000 jobs in Ontario this year. Our legislative program also provides for more affordable housing, a better health care system, upgrading of our excellent colleges and universities. It contains tough, new measures to deal with pollution and polluters, new employment and training opportunities for women and for young people and measures to help make our government more responsive to every group in society, especially minority groups.

Members ask, as the member for Bellwoods did, why we did not do it before. We have done a great deal before. One can be very proud of this province and the record of this province. We have an outstanding system. We simply are doing more to make it better, and this is my first chance to show members where I would go.

Our legislative program reviews and strengthens our commitment to our senior citizens. We have proposed changes that would bring more equality and more justice to the work place. In fact, as the opposition said, we have proposed more than 90 ambitious projects that would have wide-scale benefits for the nine million residents of Ontario.

In the short period of time this House has been in session since the election, we already have a lot of accomplishments to our credit. They like to make fun about it, but let us look at what we have already done since the House opened on June 4.

5:20 p.m.

We have had new initiatives to combat acid rain, revised control orders for Inco and Hydro, liming and restocking of our lakes, the introduction of family law to bring about a more equitable sharing of assets on marriage breakdown, highway initiatives and transit initiatives to save both time and money in providing services under the GO advanced light rail transit program.

We introduced the Equality Rights Statute Law Amendment Act, the omnibus bill that was designed to bring a number of our laws into conformity with the charter and our own Human Rights Code.

A new Ministry of Skills Development was established, evidence of this government's recognition that our education system must respond to changes in this important area of skills and training development. In addition to the \$600-million, three-year program already under way, we announced another \$100 million for youth employment and training initiatives this year.

We had initiatives to expand tourism—one of our most important businesses—in New York, New England and Quebec; measures that would help to create jobs in this province.

We introduced bills related to the charter that recognize our changing society: the Change of Name Act, the Vital Statistics Amendment Act, the Children's Law Reform Amendment Act and bills designed to fulfil our pledge to better enforce custody and support orders. These bills are companions to the Family Law Act and show my government's commitment in this vital area of need as it affects children and women in particular.

As my colleagues in this House recognize, one of the bills was the Support and Custody Orders Enforcement Act, which would create a new office to enforce the orders in question. The second bill was the Creditors' Relief Amendment Act, to give a creditor under a support order priority over all other judgement debts.

We had housing initiatives, including \$12.5 million under the convert-to-rent program, which has been so successful. That would have created 1,800 more moderate-cost rental units. Also, we had a draft version of the proposed Ontario Loan and Trust Corporations Act.

We had an impressive list of initiatives in the area of occupational health and safety, including a designated substance enforcement unit, an update on our work in drafting regulations with the right to know in cases of hazardous substances in the work place.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It is too late for you.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It is never too late.

We proposed regulations adopting exposure values for 600 toxic substances and publication on June 22 in the Ontario Gazette of a draft regulation that will set mandated exposure limits for a number of solvents. In the area of mine safety is a \$4.2-million research program regarding rock mechanics and ground control.

We announced the implementation of an integrated homemaker program for our frail elderly and disabled adults.

We have approved the Niagara Escarpment plan, which is the result of many years of planning by the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development. This is a very important plan and we worked hard to complete it. We are proud of it and so are the people who have been concerned with it.

We had additional funding for laboursponsored help centres to help unemployed older workers. We had agricultural initiatives, including the new crop development program and others.

We also introduced in this House a bill to provide more effective access to the courts in a situation where pollution from one jurisdiction causes harm in another.

We announced increased funding for hospitals and our hope to build a correctional facility near the Bruce Energy Centre industrial park in Bruce county.

On June 12, Ontario signed the Great Lakes Charter, which is designed to protect the Great Lakes from large-scale diversion and overuse.

That is not a bad record for a government the opposition is not prepared even to listen to or to consider supporting, I would say.

I also remind honourable members that the comprehensive financial statement to this Legislature by our Treasurer (Miss Stephenson) on June 10 included the fact that our deficit has again been reduced. The deficit is down not only from its 1983-84 level but also from the projected 1984-85 level.

The reason we could dedicate our attention to the list of issues the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk ended up with—and I am proud those are the kinds of issues we do deal with, as he is—is that we have had good government in this province and we have solved so many of the basic problems human beings face in the rest of the world. That is why members can put their attention on them.

Unemployment in Ontario has dropped from 9.3 per cent a year ago to 7.7 per cent. This is the lowest rate in Canada. Since the end of the recession in November 1982, we have seen 455,000 net new jobs created in Ontario; that is 54 per cent of all the jobs created in Canada. I would say our recent economic performance has been, in the words of our Treasurer, nothing short of remarkable. We are in the midst of a sound, substantial recovery and we are poised for a third year of continuous growth.

On n'avait aucun doute que les politiques des gouvernements conservateurs successifs sont à l'origine de la force de l'Ontario, puisqu'elles ont assuré et maintenu la stabilité économique de notre province. Nous avons créé un climat de confiance et un environnement propice au développement et à la croissance des entreprises, ce qui nous a permis de consolider notre économie et de relever de nouveaux défis. Nous avons également réussi à limiter la croissance de l'appareil gouvernemental et à réduire la taille de notre fonction publique, tout en préservant la qualité des services à la population.

We on this side of the House are proud that despite our enviable record of social services and other priorities, our deficit on a per capita basis is the lowest of all the provinces in Canada. We have maintained our coveted triple-A rating, which enables us to save millions of dollars a year in borrowing costs, money that can be channelled into programs instead of servicing the cost of foreign debt.

I already see the handwriting on the wall. The leader of the Liberal Party is setting up the paper tigers, setting up the excuses, because he knows his programs will lose that triple-A rating. Even with the new programs we have already announced and those the Treasurer would have had in her budget of June 25, the credit rating would not have been placed in jeopardy. I believe the public recognizes the bold new initiatives committed by my government while practising fiscal management and responsibility.

I also believe the public has confidence that our Treasurer's scheduled budget of June 25 would have been both responsive and responsible. It would have won her a place in history for being not only the first woman Treasurer of Ontario but also the best Treasurer of Ontario. With three of us in a row, that is some comment.

It will be on the heads of the opposition parties that she was denied the right to bring in that budget and that this government was denied its responsibility in following through its sound legislative programs. I believe it is the kind of

legislative program that our people demanded with their votes on May 2. I also believe that as legislators we have a responsibility to listen to them and to react accordingly.

There has been a great deal of discussion about the compromises I have been willing to make in the throne speech in an effort to make this minority parliament work. I make no apologies for being willing to compromise. I believe that by returning a minority government, the people of Ontario expect us to do everything we can by way of co-operation and compromise to govern on their behalf. I have never denied the realities of May 2.

5:30 p.m.

Perhaps one example is the way our speech commits us to legislating equal pay for work of equal value in the public sector, along with an equity commissioner to help us implement the same concept in the private sector. Indeed, I would say the legislation is an indication of my willingness, even eagerness, to be pragmatic. Like a lot of other people, I still have major concerns about how we can carry out equal pay in an equitable and just manner and make sure it is truly effective in bridging the gender gap in salaries.

However, I have a positive attitude and I want to make it work. That is why we have taken the position we have. I believe it is responsible. It does not go nearly as far as the opposition would go, but I suggest that to commit this House to legislation for the business community before we have put our own House in order, before we have determined how it can be worked and enforced and what the costs and effects are, breeds hypocrisy for our laws and brings us no closer to solving the problem for which the law was intended.

Make no mistake; we are as committed to pay equity as they are, but we have to take a responsible approach in finding the real answers as opposed to those that could be easy or popular at any time.

Under Progressive Conservative governments, we in this province have brought about steady, constructive reform by building consensus carefully and effectively, while other jurisdictions have attempted different methods, often with poor results.

For example, I am reminded how members on the other side of the House have demanded for years that our government adopt official bilingualism in this province. I wish I had a dollar for every time I have heard in this House that we should follow New Brunswick's example in bilingualism. I want to say that New Brunswick right now would gladly trade with us the relative co-operation and acceptance we have been able to attain and the significant progress we have been able to make by following our own instincts, not the demands of those who believe passing laws and hiring bureaucrats to enforce them are the answer to everything.

The people of Ontario are basically fairminded and decent, and they want injustices and inequities removed from society, but they know as we do that it is often a painfully slow process because it requires consultation and cooperation. I believe that is the lesson to be learned from the impact of the separate school funding issue in the recent election campaign. All three parties have supported the extension because it is the right thing to do both in historic terms and because commitments have been made.

Where we went wrong, in my view, was in our failure to assure the public that we would not proceed before consultation and public debate had taken place. I found that many times during the election campaign. Some people disagreed with the principle, but most wanted to be sure this House would debate it and they would have the chance to speak. That is why my government has insisted that the legislation will not go forward until public discussion has concluded. That is why we will oppose attempts by the parties opposite to railroad the bill through this House this summer. Such tactics are not what the public wants. Ontarians are used to consultation, not confrontation.

The tragedy of this minority parliament, which history will record, is that we alone were willing—

Mr. McClellan: You are going to be sorry for this. If you play this game, you are going to be sorry.

Mr. Rae: If you play this game, you are in trouble. You won't know what hit you, fellow.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Does the honourable member mean that listening to the public is bad? Is that what he is telling me? He wants to pass it through without discussion. Not us; we want discussion. Now that they have auctioned themselves off to the highest bidder, they do not want the parliamentary process anymore, do they? A party that has to put "democratic" in its name probably is not. That is all I can say.

The tragedy of this minority parliament, which history will record, is that this party alone was willing to take the honourable course and seek the kind of responsible compromises expected by those who elected us. Let us remember that in 1975 the Conservative Party had only 35 per cent of the popular vote and 51 seats. In 1985 it had 37 per cent and 52 seats.

The system that worked so well between 1975 and 1981 depended upon a daily consultation on the business of the parliament. It required each party to assess the risks in not finding a solution. It allowed them, every day, to examine each issue in the light of that day's facts, figures and feelings. It made government responsive and responsible without precommitting any one party to slavish support of another. It maintains the essential discipline of a minority parliament, the essential discipline being the vote of no confidence, and the threat of an election if one were called. It made each party careful and cooperative.

It always amazes me that today the vote of confidence is good enough to get rid of us, but tomorrow it is not good enough to get rid of the opposition.

Mr. Nixon: To stay, you have to win them.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We won the election, my friend. Let us have some votes of confidence. Let us call them all votes of confidence from now on.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: If the members opposite will quit on the first vote of confidence, we will see what happens.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They will not risk that.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, the members opposite will not risk it. That could cause an election. That could be democratic. That would let the people have their say. Oh, my goodness.

Mr. Nixon: They have had their say.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You intend to have an election. We know that.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The opposition party intends to have an election on September 15. We know that. That will be a day to remember.

However, after the election of May 2, the goal on that side of the House was never to try to get on with providing the services and reforms our people want. The only resolve from the opposition parties was to connive and concoct in a frenzied bid for power. I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, the leaders of the two opposition parties, who find themselves in this compromising position in their lust for power, will rue this day.

The two opposition leaders will not respect each other in the morning. Neither will the voters

of Ontario, because they are on to them. Otherwise, why would the leader of the NDP take so much time on the weekend to talk about jots and tittles? They will not forget and they will not forgive the rather hokey deal that both parties got, with the NDP sitting there with 20 per cent of the seats, 25 per cent of the votes and 100 per cent of the power in this House.

I say to the member for London Centre and his party that he should be ashamed of what he is doing. I suggest to him that he proposes to betray not only those people who voted Liberal but also the more than 75 per cent of the voters in Ontario who voted against the NDP and who on May 2 said they wanted another form of government.

We bargained with the NDP; of course we did. It would have been irresponsible for us not to do so. We tried to reach some kind of compromise in the one meeting they gave us, but where we differed from the Liberal Party was in how far we would go to get the support of the NDP.

Mr. Rae: All the way. Mr. Speaker: Order.

5:40 p.m.

Hon. F. S. Miller: We were willing to discuss particulars, but we were not willing to give up principles. That is the bottom line of all this. That is why we are here today facing this vote with the results already dictated by the NDP members even before they heard the proposals of a new government and a new leader. The two opposition parties—I should say one opposition party because there really is only one—have done in the back rooms of Queen's Park what they could not do in an election, namely, moved our party into second place.

On this historic day, I will remind those in the New Democratic Party that when they signed this historic accord, this entente, this jot and tittle, this no-election pact of theirs with the Liberals, they signed their own death warrant. I hope it is etched in black because Ontarians who want—and I think a lot do—to vote for socialist principles and socialist programs no longer have to vote for the NDP, whose members have become the pied pipers of the Liberal Party. They are leading all those on the political left directly into the Liberal den, and the New Democratic Party will cease to count, mark my words.

I am a practical person. I know I had no mandate to come into this House and attempt to govern as if I had a Progressive Conservative majority. But, unlike the Liberals, I also know that I had no right to govern on behalf of the NDP platform either.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Back in the ridings they are hearing that on Saturdays and Sundays. They come back nervous on Monday morning because they are hearing it all over Ontario.

I would like the Bobbsey Twins in Queen's Park to come clean. If they are determined to govern as a coalition, which does have lots of historic precedent, they should have the intestinal fortitude and fess up. If they are really as united as they pretend to be, they should legitimize their relationship and face us in the Legislature as the coalition party they really are. This province and its people deserve better than a puppet Liberal Premier with the NDP pulling the strings.

Some of the members opposite have suggested I am angry over the turn of events. I am. Not with the electorate—I have the greatest respect for the electorate—but with the opposition parties and their leaders. To them I say it is a hollow victory they intend to celebrate today. As a citizen and as a taxpayer, I worry about their alliance and what they will do. It was because of the kind of politics they intend to practise that I sought election 14 years ago. It is because of the kind of politics they intend to practise that I will remain here and oppose them and what their agreement represents.

[Applause]

Hon. F. S. Miller: That should put everybody's mind to rest. I am unanimously accepted.

Unlike some in this House, I did not set out at an early age to be a politician, let alone Premier. In my youth, I was too busy working my way through university and supporting a young family as a rather inexperienced engineer. Then I became a schoolteacher and turned to the family business. With each and every job I had, I grew increasingly concerned about the growth of government and its influence on our lives. I wanted to do something about that, to stand up and to defend the private sector, to bring in measures that would create and maintain jobs, and to help build a better society.

I entered politics for many reasons, all of which had to do with my love for this province and this country, and my desire and that of my family to be of service. I wanted to repay some of the benefits I had received from society. I wanted to preserve what is good in our way of life and to bring about improvements we still need to make.

A lot of people have worked long and hard to build this province and to create its standard of living. Right now I think some of that is at stake because of what my colleagues across the House may have in mind.

It is not the socialist policies of the New Democratic Party that have been responsible for our economy in Ontario growing at a record rate of job creation, outstripping all other provinces; it is not the socialist policies of the NDP that allowed us to restrain government spending and growth in the public service, all the time maintaining the high level of social services, and it certainly is not the socialist NDP policy that has allowed us to maintain our credit rating, bringing about needed reform through consensus-building and reducing our deficit.

The leader of the Liberal Party is willing to hand the NDP a blank cheque and hijack our parliamentary process. That is why the members of my caucus and I are angry. If it is the will of the House today, we will go into opposition and we will go with our principles intact. We will return to this side of the House in very short order because the people of Ontario will not put up with the kind of opportunism the Liberals intend to

practise.

What happens in Ontario does have consequences for the rest of Canada because, of course, we are the industrial heartland. We on this side of the House join with thoughtful Canadians far beyond our borders who view with concern what may happen. Our country cannot afford to see Ontario's economic leadership imperilled. Our country cannot view without concern the historic linchpin of Confederation being held hostage by a Liberal and NDP lynch mob. Our party will earn its way back to government. We will repair the damage that will have been perpetrated. We will indeed make sure that particular marriage is not made in heaven.

We have already begun preparing for an election because we see the Liberals as the opportunists they really are. We know that at the first opportunity—I want the members to remember this—they will engineer an excuse to run to the polls so they can get that socialist monkey off their back.

on back.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Look who is saying that. I would remind the leader of the NDP that it was not long ago he was worrying a little himself. To quote him, "I cannot believe the people of Ontario really want David Peterson to do for us what Pierre Trudeau has done for Canada."

An hon. member: Those are grounds for divorce.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The marriage is tomorrow.

Hon. F. S. Miller: They are grounds for divorce before the marriage. The marriage is tomorrow. Those are our sentiments exactly, multiplied tenfold at the prospect of seeing the NDP leader move into the Deputy Premier's office so that he will be closer when it is time to co-sign the cheques.

We do not fear an election. We will be ready. We have already begun our comeback. We will return. We will repair the damage. We will pick up where our predecessors in our party left off, building, not destroying what has been created by the men and women who went before us. They built well and we will rebuild well.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: I hope all members will pay attention to the motion and the amendments.

On Thursday, June 6, Mr. O'Connor moved, seconded by Mrs. Marland, that an humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

"To the Honourable John Black Aird, an officer of the Order of Canada, one of Her Majesty's counsel learned in the law, Bachelor of Arts, Doctor of Laws, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

"We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us."

On Friday, June 7, Mr. Peterson moved, seconded by Mr. Nixon, that the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session be amended by the addition of the following words:

"but it is our duty to respectfully submit to Your Honour that Your Honour's present government does not have the confidence of this House."

On Friday, June 7, Mr. Rae moved, seconded by Mr. McClellan, that the amendment to the motion for an address in reply to the speech of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor at the opening of the session be further amended by inserting between "but" and "it" the following words:

"since the Miller Conservative government, even while borrowing frantically from the policies of other parties, has failed to provide progressive leadership for Ontario, and failed to deal with the major challenges facing the province; and since it is the responsibility of this Legislature to reflect the democratic will of the people as expressed in the election of May 2, 1985."

6 p.m.

The House divided on Mr. Rae's amendment to the amendment to the motion, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Bossy, Bradley, Breaugh, Bryden, Callahan, Caplan, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Cordiano, Curling, Eakins, Elston, Epp, Ferraro, Fontaine, Foulds, Fulton, Gigantes, Grande, Grandmaître, Grier, Haggerty, Hayes, Henderson, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio,

Keyes, Knight, Kwinter;

Laughren, Lupusella, Mackenzie, Mancini, Martel, McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock, Miller, G. I., Morin, Morin-Strom, Munro, Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Offer, Peterson, Philip, Poirier, Polsinelli, Pouliot, Rae, Ramsay, Reville, Reycraft, Riddell, Ruprecht, Sargent, Scott, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sorbara, South, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Ward, Warner, Wildman, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Davis, Dean, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Grossman, Guindon, Harris, Hennessy, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Lane, Leluk, Marland, McCaffrey, McCague, McFadden, McLean, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Mitchell, O'Connor, Partington, Pierce, Pollock, Pope, Rowe, Runciman, Sheppard, Shymko, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, Timbrell, Treleaven, Turner, Villeneuve, Wiseman, Yakabuski.

Ayes 72; nays 52.

The House divided on Mr. Peterson's amendment to the motion as amended, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Bossy, Bradley, Breaugh, Bryden, Callahan, Caplan, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Cordiano, Curling, Eakins, Elston, Epp, Ferraro, Fontaine, Foulds, Fulton, Gigantes, Grande, Grandmaître, Grier, Haggerty, Hayes, Henderson, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, Keyes, Knight, Kwinter;

Laughren, Lupusella, Mackenzie, Mancini, Martel, McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock, Miller, G. I., Morin, Morin-Strom, Munro, Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Offer, Peterson, Philip, Poirier, Polsinelli, Pouliot, Rae, Ramsay,

Reville, Reycraft, Riddell, Ruprecht, Sargent, Scott, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sorbara, South, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Ward, Warner, Wildman, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Davis, Dean, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Grossman, Guindon, Harris, Hennessy, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Lane, Leluk, Marland, McCaffrey, McCague, McFadden, McLean, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Mitchell, O'Connor, Partington, Pierce, Pollock, Pope, Rowe, Runciman, Sheppard, Shymko, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, Timbrell, Treleaven, Turner, Villeneuve, Wiseman, Yakabuski.

Ayes 72; nays 52.

6:10 p.m.

The House divided on Mr. O'Connor's motion, as amended, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Bossy, Bradley, Breaugh, Bryden, Callahan, Caplan, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Cordiano, Curling, Eakins, Elston, Epp, Ferraro, Fontaine, Foulds, Fulton, Gigantes, Grande, Grandmaître, Grier, Haggerty, Hayes, Henderson, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, Keyes, Knight, Kwinter;

Laughren, Lupusella, Mackenzie, Mancini, Martel, McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock, Miller, G. I., Morin, Morin-Strom, Munro, Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Offer, Peterson, Philip, Poirier, Polsinelli, Pouliot, Rae, Ramsay, Reville, Reycraft, Riddell, Ruprecht, Sargent, Scott, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sorbara, South, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Ward, Warner, Wildman, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Davis, Dean, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Grossman, Guindon, Harris, Hennessy, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Lane, Leluk, Marland, McCaffrey, McCague, McFadden, McLean, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Mitchell, O'Connor, Partington, Pierce, Pollock, Pope, Rowe, Runciman, Sheppard, Shymko, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, Timbrell, Treleaven, Turner, Villeneuve, Wiseman, Yakabuski.

Ayes 72; nays 52.

Resolved: That an humble address be presented to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor as follows:

To the Honourable John Black Aird, an officer of the Order of Canada, one of Her Majesty's counsel learned in the law, Bachelor of Arts, Doctor of Laws, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario:

"We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario, now assembled, beg leave to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech Your Honour has addressed to us, but since the Miller Conservative government, even while borrowing frantically from the policies of other parties, has

failed to provide progressive leadership for Ontario and failed to deal with the major challenges facing the province; and since it is the responsibility of this Legislature to reflect the democratic will of the people as expressed in the election of May 2, 1985, it is our duty to respectfully submit to Your Honour that Your Honour's present government does not have the confidence of this House."

Hon. Mr. Grossman: After certain consultations and discussions, I believe it is appropriate that the House do now adjourn until two o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, July 2, 1985.

The House adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

APPENDIX

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS

(125 members)

First Session, 33rd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. J. B. Aird, OC, QC

Speaker: Hon. Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)

Andrewes, Hon. P. W., Minister of Health (Lincoln PC)

Ashe, Hon. G. L., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Durham West PC)

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Ottawa West PC)

Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)

Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Ottawa South PC)

Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs (Kenora PC)

Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)

Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)

Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of Industry and Trade (Sarnia PC)

Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)

Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)

Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)

Caplan, E. (Oriole L)

Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)

Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)

Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)

Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)

Cordiano, J. (Downsview L)

Cousens, Hon. W. D., Minister of Correctional Services (York Centre PC)

Cureatz, Hon. S. L., Minister without Portfolio (Durham East PC)

Curling, A. (Scarborough North L)

Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC)

Dean, Hon. G. H., Minister of Revenue (Wentworth PC)

Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)

Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Labour (York East PC)

Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)

Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)

Eves, Hon. E. L., Minister of Community and Social Services (Parry Sound PC)

Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)

Fish, Hon. S. A., Minister of the Environment (St. George PC)

Fontaine, R. (Cochrane North L)

Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)

Fulton, E. (Scarborough East L)

Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP)

Gillies, Hon. P. A., Minister of Skills Development (Brantford PC)

Gordon, Hon. J. K., Minister of Government Services (Sudbury PC)

Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)

Grandmaître, B. C. (Ottawa East L)

Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Solicitor General (Mississauga East PC)

Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)

Grossman, Hon. L. S., Minister of Education, Minister of Colleges and Universities and Provincial Secretary for Social Development (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)

Guindon, L. B. (Cornwall PC)

Haggerty, R. (Erie L)

Harris, Hon. M. D., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Nipissing PC)

Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)

Henderson, D. J. (Humber L)

Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)

Jackson, C. (Burlington South PC)

Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)

Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)

Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L)

Keyes, K. A. (Kingston and the Islands L)

Knight, D. S. (Halton-Burlington L)

Kwinter, M. (Wilson Heights L)

Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)

Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)

Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Citizenship and Culture (York West PC)

Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt NDP)

Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)

Mancini, R. (Essex South L)

Marland, M. (Mississauga South PC)

Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)

McCaffrey, R. B. (Armourdale PC)

McCague, Hon. G. R., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)

McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)

McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC) McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)

McKessock, R. (Grey L)

McLean, Hon. A. K., Minister without Portfolio (Simcoe East PC)

McNeil, R. K. (Elgin PC)

Miller, Hon. F. S., Premier (Muskoka PC) Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Mitchell, Hon. R. C., Minister without Portfolio (Carleton PC)

Morin, G. E. (Carleton East L)

Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)

Munro, L. O. (Hamilton Centre L)

Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)

O'Connor, T. P. (Oakville PC)

Offer, S. (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, H. P. (Quinte L)

Partington, P. (Brock PC)

Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)

Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)

Pierce, F. J. (Rainy River PC)

Poirier, J. (Prescott-Russell L)

Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, C. (Yorkview L)

Pope, Hon. A. W., Attorney General, Provincial Secretary for Justice and Minister responsible for French-Language Services (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, G. (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)

Ramsay, D. (Timiskaming NDP)

Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP)

Reycraft, D. R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)

Rowe, W. E. (Simcoe Centre PC)

Runciman, Hon. R. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Leeds PC)

Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)

Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)

Scott, I. G. (St. David L)

Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)

Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)

Smith, D. W. (Lambton L)

Smith, E. J. (London South L)

Sorbara, G. S. (York North L)

South, L. (Frontenac-Addington L)

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (York Mills PC)

Sterling, N. W. (Carleton-Grenville PC)

Stevenson, Hon. K. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Durham-York PC)

Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Taylor, J. A. (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Don Mills PC)

Treleaven, R. L. (Oxford PC)

Turner, J. M. (Peterborough PC)

Van Horne, R. G. (London North L)

Villeneuve, Hon. N. Minister without Portfolio (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Ward, C. C. (Wentworth North L)

Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)

Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)

Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)

Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Miller, Hon. F. S., Premier and President of the Council

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics

Grossman, Hon. L. S., Minister of Education, Minister of Colleges and Universities and Provincial Secretary for Social Development

Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and Minister responsible for Women's Issues

Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation and Chairman of Cabinet

McCague, Hon. G. R., Minister of Transportation and Communications

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Labour

Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Solicitor General

Pope, Hon. A. W., Attorney General and Provincial Secretary for Justice

Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Citizenship and Culture

Ashe, Hon. G. L., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet

Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of Industry and Trade

Fish, Hon. S. A., Minister of the Environment Andrewes, Hon. P. W., Minister of Health

Dean, Hon. G. H., Minister of Revenue

Eves, Hon. E. L., Minister of Community and Social Services

Harris,	Hon.	M.	D.,	Minister	of	Natural	Re-
sourc	es and	Mi	niste	r of Energ	gy		

Runciman, Hon. R. W., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Gillies, Hon. P. A., Minister of Skills Development

McLean, Hon. A. K., Minister without Portfolio

Mitchell, Hon. R. C., Minister without Portfolio Cousens, Hon. W. D., Minister of Correctional Services

Gordon, Hon. J. K., Minister of Government Services

Stevenson, Hon. K. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food

Cureatz, Hon. S. L., Minister without Portfolio Villeneuve, Hon. N., Minister without Portfolio

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

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SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Andrewes, Hon. P. W., Minister of Health (Lincoln PC)

Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)

Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs (Kenora PC)

Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)

Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of Industry and Trade (Sarnia PC)

Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)

Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)

Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)

Cousens, Hon. D., Minister of Correctional Services (York Centre PC)

Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)

Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Labour (York East PC)

Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)

Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L)

Eves, Hon. E. L., Minister of Community and Social Services (Parry Sound PC)

Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)

Fish, Hon. S. A., Minister of the Environment (St. George PC)

Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)

Gillies, Hon. P. A., Minister of Skills Development (Brantford PC)

Grandmaître, B. C. (Ottawa East L)

Grossman, Hon. L. S., Minister of Education, Minister of Colleges and Universities and Provincial Secretary for Social Development (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)

Harris, Hon. M. D., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Nipissing PC)

Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)

Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)

Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L)

Knight, D. S. (Halton-Burlington L)

Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)

Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Citizenship and Culture (York West PC)

Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)

Mancini, R. (Essex South L)

Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)

McCague, Hon. G. R., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)

McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)

Miller, Hon. F. S., Premier (Muskoka PC)

Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)

Pope, Hon. A. W., Attorney General and Provincial Secretary for Justice (Cochrane South PC)

Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)

Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)

Smith, E. J. (London South L)

Sorbara, G. S. (York North L)

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Deputy Premier, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics (York Mills PC)

Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)

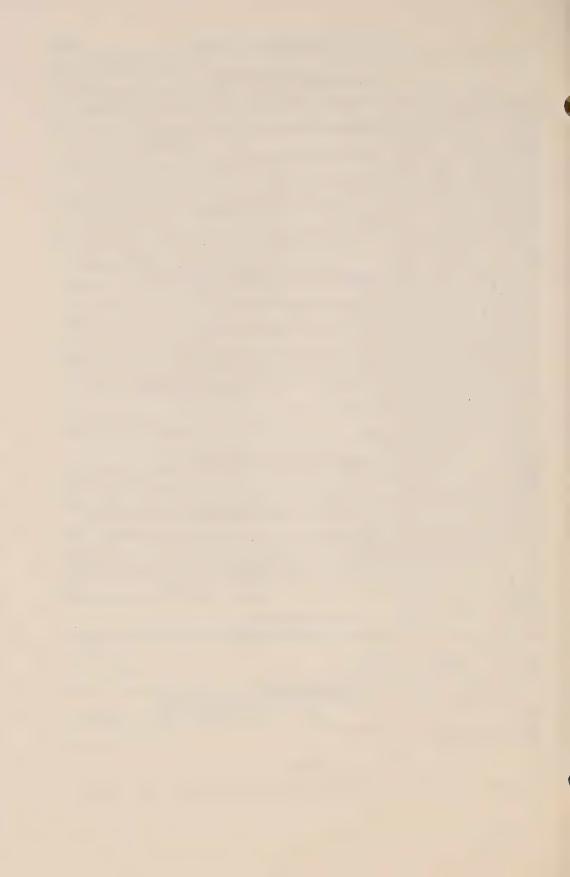
Taylor, J. A. (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)

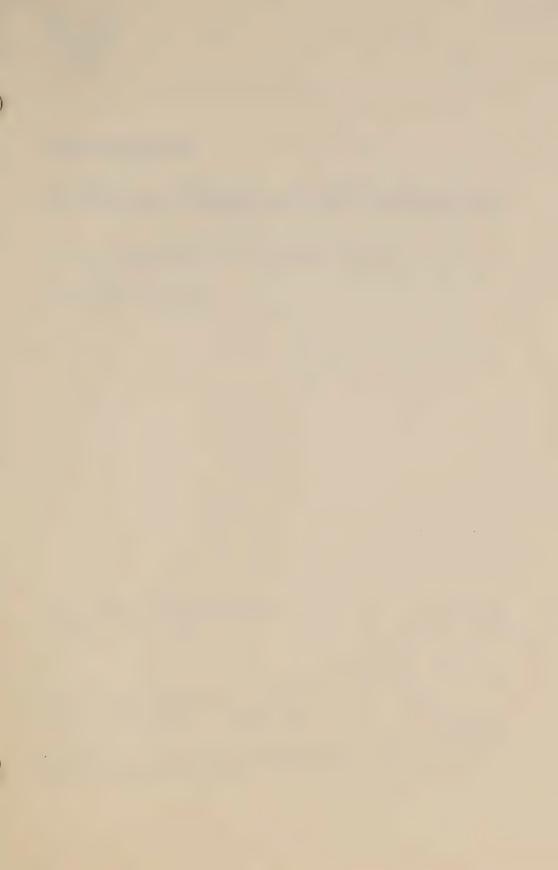
Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Don Mills PC)

Ward, C. C. (Wentworth North L)

Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)

Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)









No. 12

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 33rd Parliament Tuesday, July 2, 1985

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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Alphabetical lists of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, members of the executive council and parliamentary assistants also appear at the back as an appendix.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, July 2, 1985

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that Mr. F. S. Miller, the member for Muskoka, is recognized as leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all members of the assembly to join me in recognizing and welcoming in the Speaker's gallery Art Lee, Liberal leader for the province of British Columbia.

While I am looking in the gallery, I would like to draw to your attention a member many of you may know: Don Boudria, a former member here and now a member of Parliament.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

AIR-INDIA DISASTER

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I have two short statements; then with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I will get into a longer statement.

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of the new government of Ontario, all parties represented in this House and all members of this Legislature, our deepest condolences to the families and friends of those, and in particular those Canadians, who lost their lives in the Air-India disaster.

The entire country's concern has been riveted on the grief and loss that have been felt by the surviving families and friends. It was with a feeling of helplessness that we looked on their anguish and their sadness. We want to assure them that their grief is our grief and their loss our loss. As members of the Canadian family, we extend our collective hands and hearts in an offer of support and caring in their time of shock, horror and sorrow. There can be no more difficult task in life than seeking to comfort those who have just been touched by death.

The Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Munroe) will investigate ways in which her ministry can be of assistance to the province's Indian community and other Ontarians who lost loved ones in this tragedy in the air.

Mr. F. S. Miller: We join with the Premier's expressions on behalf of the province and the people of Ontario. We have all been very profoundly moved by the depth of the disaster and the way it struck so many of our friends and fellow citizens. Without question, the loss of so many children has made the circumstances all the more tragic.

I take this occasion to repeat some of the comments I made to the Consul General of India on June 24. The people who have come to Ontario from India and neighbouring countries have made outstanding contributions to this province and to Canada as a whole. We can only pray that their strength and their determination will help them cope with the tragedy and the grief they now suffer. That tragedy and that grief have touched us all. I hope our sincere expressions of condolences at this time will be of some help to the families and to the friends of those who have had their lives taken from them.

Mr. Rae: Our prayers and our thoughts are with the families of those who were affected so tragically by the disaster which took place some 10 days ago. It is one of the worst air disasters on record; it is one that touched a great many families in Toronto, a great many Canadian families in Ontario, and it is one that, in a sense, all of us share.

If I may add just one brief personal note, I think all of us have a tremendous concern about what has happened with respect to air safety and to the growth or the outbreak of terrorism as it affects innocent men, women and children. It seems to me it is always important for us, as people deeply committed to caring for human life and to the sanctity of the person, to continue to fight in whatever way we can against the terrible forces of darkness, the terrible forces of terrorism of those people who would engage in wanton, random, violent acts in the name of some ideology or some cause.

All of us have a tremendous stake in seeing that we take whatever steps we can to ensure the expression, in every way possible, of the importance of the sanctity of life and about fighting against these forces of darkness.

Our hearts are opened. All of us, any of us, could have been touched by this tragedy; all of

us, any of us, are equally vulnerable to these forces that are at work in society today. We all have a stake in seeing that they are brought to bay.

On behalf of my party, I would like to express our very real condolences to the families who have contributed so much to the Canadian family and to say how much all of us have lost as a result of the terrible tragedies of these last 10 days.

RETIREMENT OF PREMIERS

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Last week, two of Canada's most unique leaders announced their plans to retire from public life. I would like to say just a few words in tribute to Premier Peter Lougheed and Premier René Lévesque.

2:10 p.m.

Although these men represent entirely different philosophies and interests, they have much in common. Neither would ever allow anything to deter him from giving voice to his convictions or to speaking up for what he thought was best for his province. These characteristics often brought them into conflict with each other and with Ontario, but no matter how often one may have disagreed with these leaders, there is no question about one thing: Two titans have departed the Canadian political scene. Our friends in Quebec and Alberta know the feeling Ontario experienced when William Davis stepped down.

Canada has been blessed by a rich heritage of federal and provincial leaders. In the last two decades their role has been vital to shaping the fundamental relations of this country. Both René Lévesque and Peter Lougheed gave us rare gifts. They forced us to think seriously about issues that required serious thought. Premier Lévesque did much to force us to confront our constitutional dilemmas and Peter Lougheed did much to force us to confront our economic dilemmas. Both men have broadened our horizons and deepened our perspectives.

Premier Lévesque's passion for Quebec and his eloquence have earned the respect of all Canadians. It is ironic that the legacy of his nine-year term will be a continued and vital search for the terms on which Quebec can play its full role in Canada and still maintain its particular sense of community.

During his 14 years at the helm of the Alberta government, Premier Lougheed won respect across Canada for the passion and drive he showed in standing up for his province. We can see represented in those two men the sort of challenge the intergovernmental political process must deal with, with Mr. Lougheed asserting

Alberta's influence within Confederation and Mr. Lévesque asserting Quebec's position to be outside Confederation.

These challenges are not insurmountable, but they do represent conditions that place a premium on diplomacy. Ontario will be a key player in ensuring, undoubtedly through hard political discussions, that these points of diversity, as well as the larger cause of unity, remain vital features of our country.

Mr. F. S. Miller: I also take this opportunity to comment on some very significant changes in the political leadership of this country, outside of this province—changes that no doubt will have an effect on national as well as provincial policies.

In both Premiers Lévesque and Lougheed we have had genuine champions of provincial goals and aspirations, goals with which we in Ontario have not always been in agreement. I suspect Premier Lévesque unwittingly brought us closer together as Canadians. History may indeed record the irony that, in advocating the separation of Quebec as a viable alternative, he and his party made the rest of Canada realize the fragility of this country. Out of that recognition came sincere efforts to keep it together and to make it stronger and more unified than ever.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to remind this House of the very important role my predecessor and the members of his government played in the referendum debate. It was a tragedy that Quebec did not join with the rest of Canada in the constitutional agreement. It is our profound hope that Premier Lévesque's successor will do so.

As someone who lived for eight years in Quebec and who still has strong ties with that province and its people, I have never shared Premier Lévesque's proposed solutions to the challenges facing Quebec. He was wrong and, fortunately, Quebeckers did not respond to his vision. I believe he was right, however, in fighting for a more equitable deal for Quebeckers. We have to commend him for his untiring devotion and commitment to preserving the French language and culture in this country. Without question, his presence will be missed.

With great justification, Premier Lougheed won the respect and the admiration of westerners for his defence of their outstanding contributions to our country. He also won the respect of other first ministers as a tough bargainer on behalf of the people he represented. His province and ours were often in disagreement on the question of energy pricing, on which he had his constituency and we had ours. It is the kind of debate that is

tough on this country, but which in the long run makes us stronger as a nation for having survived such battles and gone on to questions that unite us

in purpose and resolve.

I would like to take this opportunity to comment on changes right here at home in our province. Today, on behalf of our party, I congratulate the new Premier of Ontario and those he has chosen to form his first cabinet.

[Applause]

If our applause is warm, it is because we know very well the great responsibility the Premier has taken on and the difficult decisions he is going to have to make in the days and weeks ahead. I suspect members of our caucus spent a good deal more pleasant weekend than the members on that side did, getting ready for today.

I want the Premier to know we will be helpful and positive in the days ahead, when it is in the public's interest. We will only be that way when it is in the public's interest for us to be helpful.

I take this opportunity to warn the new Premier and his government that we intend, beginning today, to be a very loyal, strong and vigilant opposition. We recognize we are facing an inexperienced cabinet, but we believe Ontarians deserve and expect nothing less than first-rate government. They have always had it with us; we are going to accept nothing less than first-rate efforts on their behalf.

We look forward to this new session and to our new and very important role in the political life of this province.

Mr. Rae: I am happy to join in commenting on the retirement of Mr. Lévesque and Mr. Lougheed.

Si je peux dire quelques paroles sur la carrière extraordinaire de M. Lévesque comme politicien canadien. Naturellement j'ai lutté personnellement contre la position de M. Lévesque sur la question de l'avenir de la Confédération canadienne; je n'ai pas partagé sa vision, si vous le voulez, de l'avenir de notre pays mais j'ai toujours respecté les qualités personnelles extraordinaires de M. Lévesque, son engagement envers sa province, son engagement personnel vers l'avenir du Québec et j'espère qu'après tous les événements de cette décennie sur la question de la constitution nous pourrons enfin arriver à une situation où le Québec se sent chez lui dans la Confédération.

J'espère qu'en même temps nous pourrons reconnaître que, malgré les différends que nous avons eus avec le Parti québécois et le premier ministre québécois, nous partageons un engagement vers la nécessité de reconnaître la position

spécifique, si vous voulez, de la province de Québec dans la Confédération.

I have not, nor have members of our party, shared the special vision of the future of Canada that was held by Mr. Lévesque, but I still think it is fair to say no one has had a more extraordinary and distinguished career in the defence of what he saw as his province's interest. Despite our differences of opinion in the past, which have been very profound, we, all of us, have to recognize the extraordinary contribution Mr. Lévesque has made to his own province and to the wellbeing of Quebec.

I certainly express the hope we may be able to move in the next while to some real achievements with respect to getting Quebec to be a partner in the new Constitution. I hope the government will be playing a constructive role in seeing we are able to reach a national agreement which will allow Quebec to play its specific role in Confederation and to ensure its part in the new Canadian Constitution.

It is a time, it has been said, of some extraordinary changes across the country. We embrace those changes. We think they are a good thing and we want to see them go further. Once the process of change has begun, as other provinces and countries have discovered at other times, the process of change tends to develop its own momentum, and that is a momentum we look forward to following.

2:20 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Peterson: At the outset, let me thank my colleagues for their warm words. I am very mindful of the responsibilities they have in this great chamber and I appreciate their warm wishes for myself and for the new cabinet, recognizing as they do, and, indeed, as everyone does, that we are inexperienced in our role, having just been sworn into office some six days

I appreciate the consideration demonstrated by the opposition parties and we intend to also demonstrate the same kind of sensitivity. We recognize we are dealing with an inexperienced opposition and I have instructed my ministers to be very gentle in the first couple of weeks, at least until they find their feet.

We are mindful of the very great responsibility we have assumed. It is obvious every opposition member aspires to govern. It is something I have personally worked towards for 10 years, and some of my colleagues have been working for it for even longer than that. Taking my place on this

side of the House, in this chair, as Ontario's 20th Premier, is personally a very humbling experience indeed.

We have much work to do for the people of Ontario. That is why we decided to reconvene this House so quickly after being sworn into office. I know of no other transition accomplished in such a very short space of time. I wish to thank everyone who helped; the opposition parties, the staff and the public service. It took a great deal of effort and co-operation and worked extremely smoothly. Speed was necessary because we recognized the importance of moving quickly to tackle the pressing problems confronting this province.

Before I discuss our plans for this session, I would like to be the first in the House to express respect for the Conservative Party's long reign. We have had many honest differences over fundamental issues through the years, but we recognize that the hundreds of Conservative legislators who sat on this side of the House sought to guide the province as best they could. I congratulate them on their ability to so often win the confidence of the people of Ontario.

The last election brought changes most of us, including my wife, did not expect. The people of the province supported our commitment to openness, to compassion and to competence. We who sit on this side of the House will spare no effort to justify their confidence. We will open new avenues to public participation and close old ones to arbitrary decisions. We will guard against any erosion in health care, equality of opportunity or help for the needy. We will show respect for every cent of every taxpayer's dollar.

We will act to preserve a clean environment. We will be bold in creating new jobs and vigilant in protecting those that now exist. We will fight for Ontario's interests and never let them be ignored. We will begin to reshape education to meet the needs of our society in a changing world. We invite all in this House to join us in the pursuit of these goals.

Our differences pale when compared to those that divide people elsewhere. We should never forget the blessing of living in a country where the phrase "political battle" is a colourful metaphor rather than a grim reality.

Six days ago, when I was honoured to be sworn in as the Premier of this province, I spoke of the need for a government without walls or barriers. That is important inside this House as well as outside.

There is a proper place for partisanship. There is also a proper time for partisanship. It must not

encompass every waking hour of every working day. We are committed to making minority government work and our aim is to make use of the talents of all legislators. In this House, everyone will count. We want to exchange ideas, not insults. We seek common ground with both opposition parties.

Many of our compaign proposals were included in the last government's throne speech. Obviously there are some basic points on which we can expect the support of all parties.

Nous occupons tous un nouveau poste. Nous devons tous faire preuve de patience. On ne peut tout faire en un seul jour, ni en une seule session. Il serait insensé d'essayer.

All of us in this House are new to our jobs. We all have to show patience. We cannot do everything in one day or one legislative session. It would be foolish to try. In the next few days, ministers of my government will announce a number of new policies. The Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) will soon provide an economic statement. That is why I will not announce today every policy we intend to pursue or every goal we hope to reach. I offer not an exhaustive list, but a broad agenda.

We face many pressing needs. One that touches upon all of us is the need to make Ontario's government open, compassionate and competent, like its people. People can only achieve the changes they want and need if they are allowed to put their hands on the levers of power and shift gears when necessary. We joined an accord to indicate the kind of policies we will pursue and the kind of support we can expect. We realized we owed it to the people to make it clear that our government will act from open plans. That is why we have placed a welcome mat at the front door of this House.

We have already gone beyond symbolic efforts in trying to involve people in the decisions that affect their lives. It is because of our belief in open government that we released long-withheld information on separate school funding less than 48 hours after we took office. We have reiterated our commitment to ensuring full debate on the manner of implementation. We want to hear what people have to say.

Notre approche ouverte s'appliquera à toutes les questions, y compris celles qui ont reçu peu d'attention par le passé.

Our open approach will extend to all issues, including those that have received little attention in the past.

D'ici quelques jours, le ministre des Affaires du Nord annoncera la tenue d'audiences publiques vers la fin du mois sur l'attribution à norOntair de lignes aériennes pour son second Dash-8. De telles décisions ne se prendront plus sans que ceux qui doivent en subir les conséquences puissent se faire entendre.

Within a few days, the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Fontaine) will announce public hearings to take place later this month on the awarding of routes for use by norOntair's second Dash-8 aircraft. No longer will such decisions be made without giving a voice to those who have to live with the consequences.

We will move quickly to make this House the people's home. We will bring television into the Legislature so what we do and say can be seen and heard in every living room in the province. We will soon introduce freedom-of-information legislation. Six years after a bill was first promised by the government, we will open that window to the fresh air of public access. The same bill will protect personal privacy, and guarantee every citizen the means to protect his or her reputation.

We will move quickly to bolster the role of members and committees of the Legislature. We recognize their vital role as the direct link that allows the people to tell us their concerns. A legislative committee will be empowered to conduct a review of parliamentary procedures and appointments. It will be given two vital assignments. It will be asked to devise ways to make full use of the talents of elected members and determine what resources they need to effectively represent their constituents.

Mr. Martel: I can tell the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member for Sudbury East knows the answer already, I know.

The committee will also be asked to develop means to attract and select the most dedicated and capable citizens to serve in government. It is our goal to seek out the finest minds and firmest hands. We are open to talent from every corner of this province. It is our duty to dispel skepticism about public and political institutions. Appointments made to repay favours have bred contempt among the public. Cynicism has been justified in the past. We will see there will be no grounds for it in the future.

2:30 p.m.

Public service will regain the respect it deserves. We will replace the spoils system with the merit system. Public service must be viewed as its own reward.

We will remember that our commitment to open government is important only as a means to an end. The end we seek is government with the competence to lead and the compassion to deliver. In the past few days we have seen an example of how people can get through to government if the mechanisms are there. We congratulate the senior citizens of this country for their successful effort to right a wrong.

Nous tenons également à exprimer notre gratitude. C'est avec grand plaisir que nous avons instamment demandé au gouvernement fédéral de revenir sur ses plans de réduire la protection des intéressés contre l'augmentation des prix. Les personnes âgées du Canada ont fait bien plus pour nous que nous n'avons fait pour elles. Elles ont non seulement prouvé la valeur de la participation publique mais elles ont également rappelé à bon nombre d'entre nous un point qu'à notre avis nous ne devrions jamais oublier.

In a little over two decades, more than 1.4 million citizens of Ontario will be over the age of 65. Many of us will be among them, those who have not expired. Many of us must now work to plan how we are going to provide the senior citizens with services they have earned. That is why I appointed a Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Van Horne) responsible for senior citizens' affairs. He has begun to work to develop an efficient, affordable and sensitive system of caring for the aged.

Those three goals come together naturally. By rationalizing services and improving seniors' access to local resources, we will make it possible for them to remain in their communities while keeping costs under control.

We will place a high priority on implementing homemaker and home-support programs. We recognize the importance of assessment and placement services and they will be reviewed. We will help senior citizens to remain as independent as they can for as long as they can.

If compassion means anything, it means support for guaranteed first-class health care for all. We will move to eliminate extra billing. Our Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) will meet soon with representatives of the medical community to work out the fairest way of implementing this basic principle.

Compassion means recognizing people's rights and insisting they be met. Unfair discrimination against women, minorities and the handicapped must go; full and equal opportunities must come.

We will introduce legislation to guarantee equal pay for work of equal value in the public sector. The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) will direct an interministerial task force to begin immediately to prepare a green paper on the

means of implementing this principle in the private sector.

We do not underestimate the difficulties in bringing in an equal value system but we are determined to make a meaningful start and see the process through. This government will ignite the engine that will drive us to the long-sought destination of equal rights for all.

To advance to that goal, we will set up a \$1-million fund to support court cases based on the women's rights guarantees in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Justice is always a sound investment.

We will also proceed with bills aimed at bringing our own statutes into line with the Constitution, and a Family Law Reform Act, and give teeth to court orders for support and custody. An important element in compassion is fairness. We will also introduce child care programs.

We are determined to build an atmosphere of improved labour-management relations. Workers have a fundamental right to organize for collective bargaining. Certification procedures provide means for the majority to decide the issue of trade union representation, but certification is a meaningless event when a first collective agreement proves unattainable.

To address this problem, the government proposes to introduce legislation to provide for the arbitration of first collective agreements. The objective will be to protect the right to organize while maintaining an incentive to negotiate a first agreement rather than rely on arbitration.

Notre proposition se traduira par de meilleures relations entre le patronat et les travailleurs, une situation que nous recherchons tous. Pour cette question, la compassion et la compétence vont nettement de pair.

Our proposal will ultimately lead to improved labour-management relations, a goal we all seek. On this issue, compassion and competence most clearly meet.

This government will also introduce measures to reform the Workers' Compensation Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Act to ensure fair treatment for those injured in the work place and further limit the risk to workers.

We must all work towards ensuring basic shelter for all. Today we wish to announce that rent review will be extended to all private rental dwellings, effective August 1. At that time, the legal limit on rent hikes will be reduced to four per cent. Given the 90-day notice required for a rent increase, the new, lower limit will apply to all notices given on or after May 2.

Legislation on these measures will be introduced early in the fall, giving the new government time to prepare a fully comprehensive package. Meanwhile, I urge all landlords to act in good faith. There is little point in raising rents only to see them rolled back retroactively.

In extending controls, however, we will be fair to all. Any landlord who feels he can justify recent rent hikes on the basis of costs will be able to apply for rent review.

The Minister of Housing (Mr. Curling) will give high priority to designing a rent registry so new tenants can find out the legal limit for prospective dwellings. Work on this will continue without delay to ensure the earliest possible date for implementation.

Our commitment to affordable housing is reflected by our decision to create a separate Ministry of Housing. A solution to this problem, which has reached huge proportions in our metropolitan areas, is going to require cooperation from all three levels of government. The Minister of Housing will be meeting with his counterparts at the housing ministers' conference in Calgary this week. He will urge there be a strong federal presence in the field.

We will seek the municipalities' ideas on how we can reverse the present trend and improve the atmosphere for residential construction. Compassion must always be accompanied by competence. Compassion without competence is like a talented orchestra without instruments: instead of harmony, it creates only silent frustration. Competence is not something you declare; it is something others must recognize.

The taxpayers trust us to put their money to the best possible use. We will not let them down. Any policy or program that is outside a framework of fiscal responsibility is nothing less than a boomerang that will turn around and smash social progress.

Reckless spending destroys our ability to meet our commitments in the future, erodes support for social programs in the present and sparks calls for a return to the simple notions of the past.

Nous devons aider ceux qui sont dans le besoin mais nous ne devons pas augmenter le coût que nos enfants auront à payer. C'est ici et maintenant que nous devons résoudre nos problèmes.

We must help those in need but we must not leave the cost to our children. We must deal with our own problems here and now.

There is no doubt that an early problem we have to deal with is our beleaguered credit rating. For months it has been a source of concern to all who are familiar with the issue. The Treasurer

will discuss this matter more fully in his statement in the next few days.

As one measure of this government's firm commitment to sound financial management, I am announcing today a government-wide review of all existing and planned advertising expenditures. Effective immediately, I am declaring a freeze on the execution of all planned advertising campaigns yet to be signed and committed. During this review, we will enter into no new advertising contracts. Of course, we will exempt summer tourism campaigns and other promotional programs which have been already contracted for. Legal notices required by various acts will also be permitted. But even those campaigns will be subjected to the same cost-conscious scrutiny as all advertising plans in our comprehensive review.

We also will review all new financial commitments made by the previous government between May 2 and its departure from office on June 26. We will take a very close look at the \$181 million that was committed in special payments during the six-week period after May 2.

Members of this House will take an especially active role in saving money on behalf of the taxpayers they represent. We will bolster the powers of the public accounts committee and the Provincial Auditor to scrutinize all government spending and spending plans.

We will establish a legislative committee on energy with a special responsibility for bringing greater accountability to Ontario Hydro.

In keeping with an earlier commitment, the government will ask a legislative committee to review details of plans to commit \$30 million to a domed stadium.

Looking further ahead to the long-term task of managing this government, we will initiate an assessment of all crown corporations and assets, and the economic and social environment in which they are functioning.

2:40 p.m.

I am very pleased to announce today that the task will be taken on by John Kruger, who has agreed to serve as a special adviser to the Premier with the rank and status of a deputy minister. Mr. Kruger, who is known to many members of this House and the public for his distinguished service in municipal government in Metropolitan Toronto, is superbly qualified for this major assignment. I am delighted that someone with his record as a proven problem solver has agreed to bring his impressive abilities to bear on behalf of the people of Ontario.

To this government, competence begins with a long, hard look at the pivotal issues as they emerge, not after they have created problems. Free trade is one such emerging issue. There is no doubt that any new bilateral trade agreement with the United States would have a significant impact on our economic future. Its influence would extend to our social, cultural and political institutions. Most important, it would have direct impact on the lives of our citizens.

To many, the phrase "free trade" has become a synonym for work without a future and a future without work. We need to know all its implications. For that reason we will be establishing a legislative committee on Ontario's economy to study the free trade issue and its potential impact on all of us. In order that I have the benefit of day-to-day counsel on this vital matter, I will appoint an adviser on free trade.

These are just our first steps to ensure that Ontario is not left out in the cold.

Our top priority is protecting the interests of the people of this province. Every policy we pursue, every piece of legislation we introduce, will be based on that principle. We will oppose any policy that does not pass our most important test: is it fair to the people of Ontario?

That is a test that many recent federal policies have failed. When one in every five jobs in this province depends on a strong auto industry, we cannot sit by while Japanese import quotas appear to slip away. We call on the federal government to stand behind the quotas unless and until the Japanese auto firms boost their investment in Canada and Ontario receives economic concessions that will ensure jobs for our auto workers.

The same principle must apply to energy prices. Oil price hikes threaten the livelihoods of too many Ontario families to be ignored or wished away.

Let us keep in mind that Ontario has always supported measures to reduce economic disparities and boost the economies of our sister provinces. As far as this government is concerned, we always will.

However, in any new economic arrangements with foreign countries or other provinces, the federal government must bear one thing in mind. You have to keep stoking the engine that generates the nation's growth. That is good for all Canadians. We will constantly drive home that point.

We will also demonstrate that the provincial government has the ability to move the economy

and create jobs. We will not sit by and accept the waste of half a million talents.

We will act on the basis of basic principles:

- 1. There is no single cure for unemployment. We need a wide variety of tools, including direct job creation.
- 2. Any assistance to business will be tied to actual job creation performance. Blind faith is no basis on which to give away taxpayers' money.
- 3. Unemployment knows not fairness. Young people, women, the handicapped, natives and visible minorities require unique programs to deal wih unique needs.

We must rationalize all our job creation programs and ensure they are understandable and accessible to the public. This is especially true of programs for young people. In recent years, many youth employment programs have failed largely because young people and other affected parties were not consulted beforehand. We will not make that mistake.

While we will meet the needs of all young people, including high school graduates and summer students, the focus of our efforts will be on those with the fewest skills. Two years ago, I proposed a program that would guarantee hard-to-employ youth meaningful employment in return for individual efforts at educational upgrading. The aim was to break the cycle of recurring unemployment, help these young people earn a fair chance in the work force and reduce the social costs of unemployment.

I am pleased to announce that the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Sorbara) is preparing to implement such a program before the summer is out.

A moment ago I listed three of the most important principles in employment programs. Of course, there is one more, and it is the most important: the principle of education as training for life.

For many years, I have been struck by the effectiveness of co-operative education programs in training our young people. Studies show that co-op students are far more likely to complete high school, go on to post-secondary education or successfully find employment than are other students. Moreover, co-operative programs are extremely cost-effective. Support for such programs will be a priority.

We will advance the vital long-term goal of restoring relevance to the education system. Young people entering the work force must be given the tools to do the job. We must reassert standards and make education relevant to the modern world. At the same time, we must give

educators enough room to do their job based on the needs they see every day.

Unfortunately, not all students in this province enjoy equal educational opportunity. Young people from some cultural backgrounds often find themselves streamed into nonacademic programs before they have had time to make the necessary cultural adjustment. We will end that practice. We will leave no doubt about our commitment to equal educational opportunities for all.

We intend to honour the previous government's commitment to full funding for public separate schools. We will adhere, in so doing, to three guiding principles. First, there must be full, open hearings to allow for public consultation. Second, given the questions that have been raised, we intend to honour our commitment to seek a court reference to assure its constitutionality. Third, we intend to honour former Premier William Davis's commitment to proceed with funding this fall. The Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) will be making a statement in the next few days.

Par suite d'une décision du tribunal à propos de la question linguistique, le gouvernement présentera, comme il se doit, un projet de loi sur la gestion des écoles de langue française.

As a result of a court decision on the language reference question, this government will, as required, bring forward a French-language governance bill.

This government will ensure that environmental hazards do not eat away at the legacy we wish to leave our children. Part IX of the Environmental Protection Act, the long-awaited spills bill, will be proclaimed immediately. It will go into full force and effect this fall. We intend to meet next month with the interested parties to finalize regulations required for full implementation. Industry and insurers will have time to take all necessary steps.

No longer will there be any question of who is responsible for preventing spills or cleaning them up. No longer will innocent victims be left without a route to compensation.

This government will also address its concern regarding the source and impact of acid rain.

One measure of a government's competence is its success in balancing growth across the province. I am pleased to announce today that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) will instruct the Ontario development corporations to direct a greater percentage of their investments to northern and eastern Ontario.

I am also pleased to announce that the long-awaited report of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment will finally be released this summer. We look forward to any guidance in evaluating plans for resource development in our northland.

In a further move to equalize conditions in northern Ontario, we will launch a study into differences in the price of gasoline in northern and southern Ontario. As well, the Minister of Health will begin the process of allowing those in remote northern communities to charge the Ontario health insurance plan for the full cost of medically necessary travel.

We will assist family farmers to maintain their role as the backbone of rural Ontario. The government cannot stand by while farmers are squeezed by rising debts and falling markets. We will soon unveil a farm credit plan to rescue the farmers under most serious assault.

We recognize also the importance of Ontario's other primary industries. The priority we give to mining was signalled by the appointment of a specific minister with responsibility in that area. He will be meeting with many members of the mining industry to look at new measures that could be most helpful in that sector.

2:50 p.m.

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) will soon announce the terms and conditions of an independent audit of our forest resources. We shall take our rich forests for granted no longer

The Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter) will act on another matter we raised during the campaign: the distribution of beer and wine in independent grocery stores. He will consult with business organizations, such as the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the Retail Merchants Association of Canada, and representatives of the brewing, wine and distilling industries, labour unions, consumer groups and other parties that have an interest in that issue. We on this side of the House are prepared to recognize that Ontario has come of age.

This government also wishes to state its belief in the importance of our arts and cultural groups, facilities and organizations. We commit ourselves to ensuring an arm's-length relationship with such funded groups.

This government will not shrink from its commitment to change and progress in every aspect of Ontario life. The principles we fought for in the election-principles that won us more votes than other party-will continue to guide us.

We are determined to provide the people of Ontario with a government in which they can take pride and a lifestyle in which they can take joy. The people are ready for change; they are willing to participate and able to contribute. We in this House must provide the competence, openness, compassion and leadership.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. F. S. Miller: Now that we have had "son of throne speech," we did a little count here. We found 43 initiatives. We think we had 90 in our throne speech. To the best of my knowledge, all 43 of the government's initiatives were in our throne speech. The government left out 47.

In spite of the apparent firmness of the language of the statement, and if the quotations I have are accurate, the answers the Premier gave reporters indicated some indecisiveness. He is like his Minister of Education (Mr. Conway), who said that perhaps this would have to be delayed a year. He used phrases such as, "It is our intention." "It is our hope." Does the Premier really intend to have that funding in place on September 1?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition certainly would know far more about indecisiveness than I would. Having said that, let me respond very specifically.

I said there were three guiding principles. It is interesting to note that it has taken the Minister of Education six days to do what the former government could not do in a year. On Thursday next, two days from now, he will tell members about this government's specific plan for full implementation, which will be guided by the three following principles: a full, open, fair and unfettered hearing; a constitutional reference, which was necessary but which the former government refused to bring in, further clouding the issue from its point of view; and implementation by this fall. That is where we stand on the issue. There is no indecisiveness whatsoever.

Mr. F. S. Miller: There is indecision even there. I would point out that reference to the Supreme Court and implementation is called without reference back. Why is the Premier still equivocating? He did not even answer my question. Is he going to let the full legislative debate we asked for and promised take place across this province without any arbitrary restriction on the time?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member has just learned the difficulty of writing his supplementary before he gets the answer. It takes a little time to learn these things, in fairness.

I do not know how we could be clearer. We have been clear throughout. The only difficulty we had in this whole issue was following the previous government's peregrinations over the past few months. I told the member our principles; I told him our minister will have a statement on his choice of options as of Thursday next. I am sure even the member will be completely satisfied, and I look forward to his full participation in this debate by putting forward his views.

Mr. Rae: One of the problems we were left with was what I would describe as some open-ended statements by the Minister of Education when he talked about the option of delay. I ask the Premier, has the government ruled out the option of delay for a year?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We have ruled out the option of delay.

Mr. Timbrell: Just to clear up any concern that rests in the minds of parents and students across the province, can the Premier assure us that parents who intend to enrol their children in the separate school system on September 3 will have the opportunity to do so without any special or additional fees? In other words, will it be fully covered, as it is in the rest of the system?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member raises a very good point. At this time, at least 7,000 young people and their families across this province are making plans about their lives and their schooling on the basis of commitments given a year ago by William Grenville Davis. It would be a tragedy to let down those young people when we are so close to that date. The answer to the honourable member's question is that they can proceed with their planning.

Mr. Pope: So the Premier is overruling his own Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am overruling the members opposite. They did nothing for a year. Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Mr. F. S. Miller: I have another question for the Premier. I refer to the comments of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) about the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) being the wrong type of person for Ontario and that in the Anglo-Saxon parts of Ontario there is still a racist feeling. Given those comments and the remarks in the Premier's statement today about ending unfair discrimination, does the Premier not think his minister made a pretty fundamental attack on the decency of the people of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will be familiar with my response on that matter, if he has done his research. I said at the time that, in my view, the remarks were inappropriate and did not accurately describe this province. I stand by those remarks.

Mr. F. S. Miller: With great respect, I think that answer is unacceptable. It is simply an oral criticism which is inadequate and inappropriate. I want to know if the Premier thinks there is room in his cabinet for somebody who thinks like that when he had to pass over people such as the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp), who obviously do not share those views.

Mr. Martel: Where is Havrot when we need him?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am getting a sense now of the kind of opposition the members opposite are going to be running and will continue to run. But that is fine. I dealt with that matter in a very forthright way. My own feelings on that matter are very clear, and it has been dealt with. I do not think he will see it happen again.

3 p.m.

Mr. Rae: I think it would be fair to say that the Premier has made his feelings well known and that the Premier knows what the feelings of all of us in the House are. I am sure, on reflection and consideration of what he had to say, the Minister of Agriculture and Food would reflect on those remarks.

There have been some precedents in the House with respect to remarks made by other members. It has been traditional in that regard for the member himself to make a statement and to indicate to the House and to the people of the province precisely what his feelings, on reflection, are. I would like to ask the Premier whether he would consider insisting that the Minister of Agriculture and Food make that kind of statement and apology to the House.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: May I add I had a discussion with the minister in respect to those remarks. It is my understanding, from reading the press reports, that he did offer his apologies in a very public way as quickly as possible under the circumstances. I believe he feels as badly as I do

about it. I do not think the members will see it happen again.

Mr. F. S. Miller: I find that unacceptable. I have sat in the Premier's chair. I know the kind of discipline one must have in cabinet. The Premier talks a lot about taking down the unacceptable barriers and walls in Ontario. Does he not think he should take more severe disciplinary action?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Unlike some of the Leader of the Opposition's colleagues, I am not looking for blood. An honest mistake was made. I am sorry about that. It was inappropriate and an apology was tendered. We are not looking for blood on the floor.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Rae: My question to the Premier is with regard to the statement he made today. I would like to focus on what he said about equal pay and to draw to his attention the statements he made on October 20, 1983, commenting in this House on the debate that was prompted by the resolution of the member at that time for Hamilton Centre.

He said: "This is a clarion call for action. There are people who have followed this debate at great length and who have given a great deal of their time and effort to try to persuade legislators that we have to move. There is sufficient proof in the marketplace, in other provinces, in some companies that have been more progressive than others, and in the federal government that none of the historic arguments against the equal pay for work of equal value concept is valid any more.

"I believe we have the proof that the old saws, the old objections, the old clichés..." etc., emphasizing it was time for action.

In another speech in the same year, he said: "I would recommend that you remember the battle cry of Nellie McClung, that parliamentarian and reformer, 'Never retract, never explain, never apologize; get the thing done and let them howl.'"

Nellie did not say anything about a green paper. I would like to ask the Premier whether he could tell us precisely the meaning of the decision to have a green paper with no timetable attached to it, instead of bringing in legislation with respect to equal pay in the private sector.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: First, may I say how pleased I am that for the first time in my life people are reading my old speeches. That is a great compliment to me.

Mr. Grossman: We have them here.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I recommend them to the members. Mr. Speaker, perhaps you could bring these members to order.

I remember those very fine speeches. I am glad the member reminded me of them. They are some of my best. It is interesting, because I have talked about this principle since 1975. However, I said then and during the campaign that we believe in a staged approach to the implementation of equal pay.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: These people are trying to forget about the campaign, but I remember it very well.

What I said, and what we intend to do, is the following: we will proceed with equal pay for work of equal value in the public sector. Second, we will proceed on the base of contract compliance in the private sector. The third stage will be fully throughout the private sector. It must take time to be absorbed and have all these digested.

The members are going to ask me what my time frame is. Obviously, I am not in a position to tell them whether it will be two or four months, but I can say it will not be six years. We are going to move with great dispatch in this matter. I have instructed the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) to set up an interministerial task force to proceed to work out the kinks. I expect to have this implemented in the not too distant future.

Mr. Rae: We all have memories of the campaign. The Premier's letter to Ms. Sam Ion, president of the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues, dated April 11, 1985, with Campaign Ontario, the Liberal logo, on it, under "Equal Value," says:

"The Ontario Liberal Party is deeply committed to the concept and practice of equality in the work place. A Liberal government will enshrine the concept of equal pay for work of equal value. We will introduce mandatory equal value legislation which covers both the public and private sectors."

It says nothing about "staged progress," which are words I always recall from Bob Welch, who was Minister responsible for Women's Issues and is now a private citizen. It says nothing about "contract compliance."

I would like to know from the Premier precisely what the government's approach now is. Why is there a difference between the public sector and the private sector, when in previous

statements that have been made there has always been an indication the government is going to move in both areas?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is a fair question. I do not want to go into all the details, but there is a difference between the private and public sectors. The New Democratic Party may not always see it that way. They want to make one out of them all, but there is a difference.

The disagreement is over the time frame within which we are going to commence it. I say to the honourable member that it is impossible to put it all in together. We will start with the public sector, quickly work out the kinks and proceed through the other stages, as I recommended. That in no way implies any backing off from any commitment. This is something I have believed in for a very long time.

Mr. Timbrell: Little did I think that on the first day of this new government we would see both a breach of faith with the voters and a breach of contract with the partners in the government. I think they have grounds for divorce and I would be pleased to recommend that.

Mr. Speaker: Is that your supplementary?

Mr. Timbrell: What could possibly have happened since the recent election campaign during which the leader of the government responded in such a very clear, frank way to the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues and to countless other advocacy groups for women's rights so that, instead of what was in the contract of May 28, which reads, "Introduce legislation for equal pay for work of equal value in both the public and the private sectors," he is today backtracking and breaching that promise?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With great respect to my aggressive friend, there is no backtracking on any commitment or anything else. I do not care how he wants to interpret it. We have carried the can. The members opposite know more about backtracking, equivocating and changing their minds on everything. What are they going to do with their contract to stay off their leader's back for a month? He is the one who is in trouble. Do not give me that.

Mr. Rae: We have dealt with waffle groups before in our party. We have some experience in these matters, so we have no problem with that. We will keep on dealing with it.

I want to ask the Premier about the statement made on May 30, 1985, by the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), now the Minister of Labour. He was quoted in the Toronto Star as saying: "I am more worried about the

non-unionized workers.' Wrye said a more activist approach may be necessary, sending employment standards officers out to help companies comply with the law."

This is the operative part I would like the Premier to comment on. "Wrye said he expects to see a law which would evaluate jobs on effort required, responsibility, working conditions and the required education and skills introduced next fall covering all Ontario workers."

3:10 p.m.

I wonder whether the Premier could tell us why the decision has apparently been made, according to his statement today, that no particular timetable is being attached to equal pay with respect to the private sector. I am sure he would not want it to be said that someone who works in the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations should be regarded as more equal than someone who serves hamburgers at McDonald's. I am sure he would want those two people to be considered fairly and equally under the same legislation, as is the case in Quebec and at the federal level.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: There are a number of approaches to the issue. One of the things we will be doing very quickly is sending out information to people in the private sector advising them that these laws are coming and asking them to get their own internal systems in shape in order to handle that.

There is a great deal of apprehension about the introduction of equal pay, particularly in the private sector. I believe the more information they have, the less concerned they will be. Sometimes they ask the same questions these people ask because they really do not understand it.

Our responsibility is to allay their fears. We will be doing that, working with the private sector, showing that it works very neatly in the public sector, taking those experiences out. With absolutely no backing off from our very strong commitment, I believe we are doing this in a sensitive, humane way.

DARLINGTON NUCLEAR PLANT

Mr. Rae: Obviously, these times are going to be even more interesting than I thought.

Let me ask the Premier another question about an area that was not discussed at all in the speech he made today. He mentioned that the government was going to freeze advertising contracts, but he did not say anything about the position of his government on the most important public expenditure that is currently under way and which his party has consistently said it wanted to stop. That is the expenditure at Darlington.

What is the position of the government of Ontario today on the construction of a nuclear station that the Premier and many others in his party have said on many different occasions is not necessary and is a waste of money?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As does the leader of the third party, I believe Darlington will turn out to be one of the great mistakes that has been made. For many years we advised that it never should have been proceeded with. The question is how to cut our losses.

Two things will be used to look at the situation immediately. First, Mr. Kruger is coming in to work with me in my office. Second, it is my hope the select committee on Ontario Hydro, which this House will be striking in the next few days, will adopt that item as an immediate priority. With that combination of things, we will have a very clear fix on it in the very near future.

Mr. Rae: We are delighted that the committee is being re-established and that it is going to be sitting this summer. As far as we are concerned, Darlington has to be the top priority for the committee. We all recognize that the members of the committee are to some extent going to be reflecting the policy positions of their parties.

I am a little uncertain, because in the Toronto Star on April 20 the Premier is quoted as saying he would rein in the giant utility but he would not necessarily scrap Darlington, even though he feels its construction is an awful mistake. Prior to this time, in December 1984, November 1984, January 1984, in 1983 and in 1982, his position was very clear. He was quite unequivocal on the subject of stopping the process of what is now going to be an \$11-billion expenditure, five times the original estimate. Most of us are convinced there are far better ways for us to save energy and to save electricity in Ontario.

What is the position of the government now? It is not a question only for the committee, but a question the Premier will have to address himself.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The information the member presents to this House is absolutely correct. For 10 years I have argued that it was a mistake and that it should have been lopped off in the very early stages.

The question to be collectively determined now is how much has been spent and/or committed. I do not know those figures today, but we are searching for them quickly and we will have to apply our collective minds to the question. If, for example—and I pose a hypotheti-

cal case to the member—\$8 billion or \$9 billion has been spent already and there is another \$1 billion to go, what is in the best interests of this province? In other words, we are in a situation of cutting losses, as we are in so many other ill-acquired assets in this province, such as Suncor and other things.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is a reality. We have to look at it in pretty hard-nosed business terms. I regret we are going to have to make some of these decisions, but we will. That is the approach I would like to take. I do not know specific figures on exact committals and money in the ground as of this point today.

Mr. Cureatz: Then will the Premier come out to my riding of Durham East and the Darlington generating site and tell the 4,000 men and women there that as of next week they are unemployed because of the government's policies?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I would be delighted to visit the member any time. I have always found him one of the most reasonable and agreeable Conservatives I have ever run into. When I make an announcement of policy, I am prepared to accept the consequences. Depending on what has happened, I am prepared to take that same message anywhere in the province.

Mr. Rae: The action of moving on the advertising contracts is obviously something the government feels is important in terms of its symbolism. There is another reality out there. Major contracts are being let every day by Ontario Hydro for this \$11-billion expenditure. Precisely what is the government's time frame with respect to making a decision with regard to Darlington?

Why did the government not pursue the option of freezing contracts or at least taking a pause in the letting of additional contracts with respect to Darlington, when we all know the clock is ticking and that Hydro has a tremendous institutional stake in pushing that project ahead regardless of the consequences? Why not move in an area which, admittedly, is very difficult but is of more than symbolic importance?

I do not have to tell the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) of the importance of the Hydro deficit with respect to the overall credit situation of the province. I am sure he saw the same remarks by Darcy McKeough that I have and I suspect he is about to resurrect them. However, they have an impact on the credit rating of the province. This is the biggest project going.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Rae: It is a major expenditure. Why did the Premier not at least consider or present us with the option of freezing the contracts with respect to Darlington?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We considered that option, but because of time pressures in the last six days, it is not one of the things on which we have made a decision.

I ask the honourable member to consider this fact: supposing \$6 billion is committed and blown if it is closed down, supposing it is \$5 billion or \$4 billion or \$8 billion, what is the magic point at which it becomes uneconomic? That is the very hard decision we are into today. In a way it is like Minaki Lodge. It was easy to cut at \$550,000. They went on to spend \$45 million to justify that mistake.

It should have been cut at \$1 billion, \$2 billion and \$3 billion, but should Darlington be cut at \$5 billion, \$6 billion or \$7 billion? That is the difficulty of the judgement we have to make in hindsight today.

I will look forward to sharing that kind of decision with members of this House and members of the committee. I do not want to prejudice their discussion because it has huge ramifications, as the honourable member pointed out.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Pope: I have a question for the Premier. By now he has had the advice of the senior staff of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) on the matter of separate school funding and initiating a constitutional reference on this matter. Why is he proceeding with a constitutional reference, ignoring the advice of senior staff for the Ministry of the Attorney General? Specifically, what is he going to refer to the courts?

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Let me tell the member something: we run this place, not the senior staff. That may be the difference between the member and myself. The Attorney General will take responsibility for the decisions we make. Maybe that is why the members opposite got into so much trouble.

Second, on Thursday next, two days from now-and I am sure the member can wait-he will have a full and comprehensive statement on the reference.

Mr. Pope: Now that we have established that this Premier intends to involve himself on a

political level in the court processes of this province, I want to ask a supplementary. The Premier will also have received advice from senior officials of the Ministry of the Attorney General with respect to whether legislation can proceed during the time a constitutional reference is being heard. Why is he ignoring that advice and proceeding? Why is the government initiating the constitutional reference process when the Premier knows very well it will put funding in jeopardy, not only for grades 11, 12 and 13 but also for grades 9 and 10?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Perhaps it is for the reason that the former government could not make a decision. They worked on it for a year and walked out. They bailed out without having the guts; we are prepared to take that responsibility.

First, my friend asked me about the Attorney General involving himself in the courts. I remind him that his predecessor on two occasions went to the Supreme Court of Canada to lose in representing Ontario's situation with anti-inflation guidelines; so he should not tell me about political involvement in the system with the Attorney General taking an active role.

Second, my colleague is prepared to take the responsibility for this matter. Like anyone else, we receive a great deal of advice from staff, outsiders and others, but we have an advantage the former government never had. We have one of the finest counsels in this province as the Attorney General of this government and he will make a decision with which even the honourable member will agree.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The Minister of Labour is quoted in our local paper as talking about reviewing the Valenite-Modco issue. Is the minister prepared to indicate to the people of his home-town community and the people of this province that he is prepared to lay charges against Valenite-Modco? For more than 10 years, the company violated health and safety legislation on 29 occasions, had 29 orders and the Minister of Labour under the old government did not lay charges. Is the minister prepared to give a message to companies in this province that his government is going to be tough on health and safety matters? That message can be given on the Valenite-Modco issue today.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am well aware of the question raised with my predecessor by the honourable member. My officials have been reviewing the matter and I hope to have a fuller answer on Thursday.

Mr. Martel: Are you sure they are yours?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Do you have a supplementary or do you want to wait until there is a further reply?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I am in the habit of asking supplementaries, but I am trying to figure out what I am going to ask him.

Will the minister be making his reply in the House? Will he make a statement on this matter so the House can be apprised on an issue the minister knows is serious, not just in the city of Windsor but also to workers right across this province?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: If memory serves me correctly, some 29 orders were laid against Valenite-Modco over a period of 10 years. There appears to have been a gross failure to comply with those orders. I agree with the honourable member that this government wants to assure the workers of Ontario this government takes its responsibilities in the occupational health field very seriously.

I can only ask the indulgence of the member. We were reviewing the matter over the weekend and I will have a much fuller statement as an answer to a previously asked question on Thursday. I give him that assurance.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Timbrell: I note that in several portions of the Premier's statement today he refers to open government and to working from an open plan. I wish to return to the question regarding the implementation of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

On page 12 of the Premier's statement, he refers to an interministerial task force being established under the chairmanship of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott). I would like to ask the Premier if he will reconsider that decision when he meets with his cabinet tomorrow and make it truly an open process. Instead of going with an interministerial task force, presumably made up of ministers and/or public servants, will he appoint a commissioner to develop a plan to implement equal pay for work of equal value across the board in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Does the member want a royal commission to delay it another six years? What is his point on this whole thing? The Tory government's throne speech included an implementation commissioner; they were going to discuss it that way. If we give it to someone with the prestige, competence and dedication of this Attorney General, who is going to make it a very

high priority, and with the considerable resources of his ministry and others, the member will see much quicker action. As with any other policy we will bring into this House, we will consult widely and get the views of members of the opposition party. I know they will want to accelerate this process and bring it into the private sector. We want the benefit of their wise counsel on this issue because it is so basic. It involves every person in this House and province; I know members will want to participate and we will allow them to do that.

Mr. Timbrell: Given the Premier's concern, in addition to what he has already said would he indicate today in this House and to the women of Ontario the specific date by which the principle of equal pay for work of equal value will be implemented in this province?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I was asked that before. I am sorry, I am not in a position to give the member a specific date, but we will move as quickly as we possibly can.

Mr. Grossman: Did you hear that?

Mr. Eakins: In the fullness of time.

Mr. Grossman: How do you like it so far?

Mr. Rae: Where is he? I am waiting for the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) to get up and ask a question, but-

Mr. Timbrell: How about plan B, Bob?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: I do not know what problem the government is having with this issue, given the commitment it has had as a party for so many years, going back to 1978. The Premier said that on March 14 when Margaret Campbell, the member for St. George, tabled a private member's bill to provide for the economic equality of the sexes. The party supported the bill that was put forward by Mr. Bounsall, who at that time moved a motion.

I can go through speech after speech the members have given saying there is no problem with the principle and that it should be enshrined. "We have discussed the principle," the member said in 1983, "we hope we can agree on it today. There is no need for a delay." As for staged progress, that is a concept of which the Liberals were very critical when they were in opposition. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) was very critical when it was mentioned by the former Minister responsible for Women's Issues.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Rae: We do not want a royal commission, unlike the Tories, who are obviously looking for

more jobs for defeated Tory candidates and who still have not gotten used to the fact those jobs are no longer available. What is the problem with bringing in legislation, referring it to committee; or if the Premier is not prepared to do that, putting the subject matter before a committee so there can be a full public discussion? Let us at least get a clear indication that is the direction we all want to go. The Tories are on side as being in favour; the Liberals are too. There is no problem; let us do it—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That was a good supplementary.

Mr. Rae: Let us get it into committee right away, so we can have legislation in 1985.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: With respect to my honourable friend, our goals are similar in this matter. We may be arguing a little with respect to the difference in the timetable. We are charged with the responsibility of governing and we want to do it right so as not to set back the cause. Every problem that is created will cause more difficulties in implementation in other areas. We have determined this is the best route to accomplish exactly what the member and I, and I am assuming now the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell), all want to do together.

TRANSFER OF JOBS

Mr. Ramsay: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Will he investigate the continuing transfer of jobs from the Kirkland Lake office to the Timmins office of his ministry, especially when this is always a case of transferring from small towns to large centres? Seeing the latest proposal of two jobs being transferred and the third becoming redundant at Kirkland Lake is causing much turmoil in both of these offices and has resulted in a resignation in Timmins, will the minister postpone the job interviews that are scheduled for tomorrow until he has time to examine this process?

3:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I want to thank the member for advising me earlier today that he would be raising this question.

Mr. Bennett: It is all in the party.

Mr. Hennessey: It is all the party, in the agreement.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I sense in that action a certain graciousness which I hope will be the prevailing mood in this House.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Now on with the answer.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The intent of this ministry is to locate services as close as possible to the people who require them. I fully appreciate the concern of the member over moving employees and moving what would appear to be the service itself from a smaller community to a larger one.

I have asked my officials to examine this and to report back to me why this is being done and whether it can be done in a different way. The impression I have at this time is a reorganization is taking place. I understand that 15 of the 16 positions in Kirkland Lake will remain and over the next couple of months two additional positions will be made available in that area.

I am sorry I cannot give the member the assurance that the interviews scheduled for tomorrow will not take place. I can assure him that no final decision will be made until after a review, but the interviews have already been set up. People have been invited in and I think it would be unfair not to proceed at least with that stage.

Mr. Ramsay: When the minister is investigating this process, will he look at the whole rationale of taking government jobs out of smaller areas and putting them into centres where the private sector is doing very nicely and where those centres are growing? I think government jobs should remain in some of the smaller, less developed areas. In one case, as the minister will see, the person who was transferred to Timmins actually works four out of five days in Kirkland Lake. I would ask if the minister would look into that

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I accept that observation. I would point out to the member that this ministry is one of the most decentralized in all government. We have four regional offices, 13 area offices and 42 local offices. We are very cognizant of the fact that the services of this ministry, which deal very much with the needs of people, should be as close as possible to the people. I will keep the member's observation and recommendation in mind.

Mr. Eves: We accept the kind comments the minister has made about the dencentralization of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. It was done over many years of hard work by my predecessors.

With respect to decentralization, perhaps the minister could tell us if it is the current government's intention to proceed with the policy of integration in the ministry? Will the ministry be proceeding in the seven pilot communities that

have already seen integration over the last year to year and a half?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I presume the member is referring to the integration of family benefits and general welfare, which is taking place, as he said, in seven trial areas. I can assure the member those trial areas will be examined very carefully. It is my understanding Thunder Bay and Waterloo have already signed agreements with the ministry. I have asked my officials to fill me in on the details of those agreements.

In general, it would appear to me the intent is to help people who should move from general welfare to family benefits to do so more quickly than is possible at the present time. It is also the intent to assist those people, particularly single mothers who wish to move into the work force—I underline that and I am sure the member knows what I am referring to—to get as much assistance and as much support as they possibly can.

FORMER GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENTS

Miss Stephenson: I have a question for the Premier regarding his commitment to review the expenditure of \$181 million which was made by the previous government since May 2.

Might he exclude from that review such items as the integration and expanded homemakers' program to which he referred in his mini-speech from the throne; the expansion of the rental housing, one-year commitment of \$400 million by the previous government; the commitment to acid rain abatement; the commitment to increased and improved transportation in the city of Toronto and other urban areas; the commitment to hospital construction funding in a significant number of areas throughout the province; the commitment to French-language services expansion; and the automobile parts investment program, which is so significant a part of employment opportunities in this province?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I appreciate advice on those matters. I am certainly prepared to consider the member's views because she has always been very thoughtful. Does she include a new golf course for Deerhurst and things such as that in her list as well? If she does, I would like her advice on those matters.

Miss Stephenson: I asked whether the Premier would exempt the items I raised in the brief list I mentioned. Is it "yes" or "no," or is he going to cut them?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am going to look at them with great sensitivity, as the member has done in the past. I said I was going to review the list. I am just wondering: there is a Drawbridge Inn in Sarnia as well as Deerhurst; we have to look at that. I will be asking the member's advice on all those matters.

TELEPHONE RATES

Mr. Swart: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications, although perhaps it would be more appropriately put to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Kwinter). However, I will put it to this minister.

I hope the minister will be aware, despite his short time in office and in the House, of the pending decision of the Canadian Radiotelevision and Telecommunications Commission on the application by CNCP Telecommunications to compete in long-distance telephone service. If so, he will recall the probable outcome, based on experience in the United States and the study done by Peat Marwick for the provincial governments including Ontario, that showed local telephone rates could escalate by 115 per cent in Ontario if the application were granted in full.

Has the government notified the CRTC yet that it is repudiating the previous government's support of the CNCP application? If not, does it intend to do so very soon?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: We are reviewing it. I questioned my staff on Saturday regarding this issue. I am aware the projected increase in the rates for local telephone users could escalate by two or three times. I have asked for a complete review of the proposal by CNCP and accordingly I hope to report to this House in due course.

Mr. Swart: Does the minister realize that the leader of his party, who is now the Premier (Mr. Peterson), took a very strong stand on this matter last fall? He asked the then Premier to "take a four-square stand against that position." That was the position of deregulation.

Is it true the Honourable Marcel Masse, federal Minister of Communications, is planning a meeting in October with the provincial ministers to discuss the whole communications policy? If that is so, would the minister ask that no changes be permitted in the telephone system or policy until after that meeting, regardless of the ruling of the CRTC?

3:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: As I stated, we will be reviewing the entire request by CN-CP relative to the question asked by the honourable member. We will certainly take into account what the Premier said last fall.

I am aware of a meeting of my colleagues, the federal Minister of Transport and, I believe, Mr. Masse in Vancouver in October. We will be in communication with him. Indeed, I have asked my staff to initiate meetings with both federal ministers to deal with this and other issues.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr. Davis: I have a question for the Premier. Is he able to indicate the timetable for the relocation and compensation of the McClure Crescent residents?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am not in a position to outline that today. We are working on it. It has been a matter of great concern to me for a long time. I cannot give the honourable member a timetable today, but we will work on it.

Does the member have any ideas? What was the former government's timetable on it?

Mr. Speaker: I will ask for a supplementary and not a reply to a question.

Mr. Davis: If it is the government's intention to buy the homes on McClure Crescent, how will the Premier guarantee those residents fair prices for their homes? What does he intend to do with the area after all the residents have left?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am very familiar with that situation; I have been there on a number of occasions. There is no sadder example of the former government's lack of leadership than its failure to act on this matter.

How would the member like to be raising his children on top of radioactive soils? That is what is happening. The member can barrack and complain all he wants. The honourable member who represents that area and others are very concerned about that, as am I. We already have started the discussions and we expect some early action.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What has happened to the earlier idea that was once agreed upon by the Liberal Party and ours about the idea of moving the soil to Ontario Hydro sites for safekeeping rather than going through this whole business of buying the homes, etc.? Is that still an option the Premier is looking at?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As the honourable member knows, a number of solutions were explored. At one point it was to go to Borden, another time to a dump in Scarborough; or to buy the homes and move the people and all that kind of thing. There was no clear resolution on that.

We are looking afresh at all those alternatives. My colleague has some very strong views, but we are determined to have very early action on it.

VISITOR

Mr. F. S. Miller: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: You mentioned two or three previous members. In the gallery we have Jim Snow, the former member for Oakville.

DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services. I apologize for not letting him know about this earlier, but I will be genteel.

I want to ask him a question that I had the opportunity to ask the last Minister of Community and Social Services but did not get the opportunity of a reply in the House. It has to do with his policy towards the developmentally handicapped and their deinstitutionalization in this province.

As the minister knows, he opposed the deinstitutionalization process of the five major institutions. Two of those remain open at the moment: Whitby Durham Regional Centre and D'Arcy Place. What is the minister's position on those closings? What kind of methods will there be in their deinstitutionalization?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: As the honourable member points out, four of the six are already closed and we have no intention of going back and changing that. The member's question refers to the two that remain open. The decision has been made that D'Arcy Place will remain open; it will not be closed.

As the member knows, the Durham centre is in a psychiatric hospital building, which I suggest is not the most appropriate place for children with these kinds of needs. Therefore, I am examining that one very carefully.

It is my understanding that a significant number of the parents who have children at Durham have indicated a willingness to have them located in another facility, if it can be closer to their own homes and is more appropriate than where they are now. I assure the member that only if a more appropriate location can be found will they be moved from their existing location.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The past objections of the minister, as well as those of his leader and mine, had a lot to do with how this deinstitutionalization process was taking place. Therefore, he must be aware of the deinstitutionalization plans for the homes for special care and the nursing homes, about which I am very worried.

Will he please guarantee us, as members of this House, that deinstitutionalization will not take place until we have had full public hearings before a committee of this Legislature to talk about how it should be done, so we do not have the same kind of disruptions we had with the last four closings?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I give the member the assurance that the associations for the mentally retarded involved in those two areas, and the parents of the children concerned, will be consulted fully before decisions are made. To the extent it is appropriate or desirable that this come before the Legislature or a committee of this Legislature, it will be done.

I point out to the member that some associations for the mentally retarded in that region already have raised funds and are in the process of acquiring land and buildings to house the children, when and if they are removed from Durham.

Mr. Ashe: I wonder whether the minister has been informed that the decision regarding the retention of D'Arcy Place was made some time ago. In other words, that is not a new revelation.

Second, is the minister not supportive of the position of the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded that deinstitutionalization is the correct way to go with mentally retarded and developmentally handicapped people in this province? Is he opposed to the position of that association?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I do not recall anything in my previous answer that indicated I was taking credit for the D'Arcy Place decision. I was not. I simply indicated a decision had been made, and for very good reasons, that for approximately 75 residents, D'Arcy Place would remain. That is a fact.

With respect to deinstitutionalization, I concur completely that is the route we want to go. However, we also want to recognize two things. One, there must be an appropriate alternative for any resident who is moved out of an existing institution. We are not going to simply take them out and throw them out on the streets. We are not going to operate in that way.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I am not suggesting the member did.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps you should just address your remarks to the Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Two, some residents in those institutions need very highly specialized care of a kind that simply cannot be provided in the local communities at present. Until we have a more viable opportunity—and I cannot say when that will be—those residents will remain where

they are, or in another institution where their needs will be best met.

SPILLS BILL

Mr. Brandt: I have a question for the Premier, who has had an opportunity to rest through the past few questions.

Given the real concerns and apprehensions of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and several industries with respect to the implementation of the spills bill in its proposed form, can the Premier give this House his assurance that the implementation and introduction of that bill will receive the widest possible discussion with industry, environment groups and all others who are concerned and interested in that question?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The short answer to the honourable member's question is a very clear yes. I am mindful of some of the difficulties that prevented that bill from being proclaimed. Someone in his judgement chose not to proclaim that bill for the past several years. We all agree the objectives of that bill are necessary and we need them now. It is our intention—and I expect the House will hear from the minister later this week about our specific plans—to proclaim that bill immediately for implementation in the fall.

In the meantime, we will have discussions with all the people concerned: insurers, transporters, manufacturers and others. They must know clearly that we will be as sensitive as we can be in the regulations and in building insurance apparatus to cover their particular situations. However, a signal must go out and they must know now that we are going to change the environmental protection laws in this province. There will be no equivocation.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Brandt: Given the very real concerns indicated by the insurance industry with respect to coverage for unknown amounts, is it the intention of the government to proceed if there are difficulties for industry in acquiring the necessary insurance coverage? In other words, is the Premier going to proceed at all costs even though the package cannot be put together in a way that makes sense and in a way in which industry can co-operate with the government in an attempt to provide adequate coverage for all parties concerned?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I assume it is inherent in the remark of the former minister, who has some

knowledge of these matters, that he is saying it cannot be done. Is that what he is saying?

Mr. Brandt: No, I did not say that.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Then he agrees with me that it can be done. We will work together to devise those systems and to have appropriate insurance to solve the problems he talked about. The member and I agree it is a solvable problem. I invite him to help us in open hearings to draft those regulations so we can satisfy the problems he addresses and still have first-class environmental protection in this province.

Mr. Hayes: My question is directed to the Minister of Transportation and Communications and deals with the transportation of hazardous goods legislation. The act has been discussed several times over the past 10 years and is finally being brought to light.

What type of specific training is going to take place for the drivers, the local fire departments and the local police forces regarding the transportation of dangerous goods?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Given the time before us and the information I do not have in front of me, I respectfully suggest that I can bring that answer back to the honourable member at an appropriate time.

Mr. Hayes: I would like to know when. Hon. Mr. Fulton: I hope on Thursday.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Hon. Mr. Riddell: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: The leader of the New Democratic Party suggested a statement might be forthcoming from me regarding comments I made last week. I want to say that it was and is my intention to make a statement reiterating what I said last week. That is, on reflection I realize the inappropriateness of my comments and I regret very much any concern I have caused. I stand in my place at this time and apologize to the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) and to all those who have been offended in any way by the comments I made last week.

PETITIONS

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. McKessock: I have a petition signed by 33 people from the Owen Sound Collegiate and Vocational Institute and addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows: "Whereas any action to extend public funding to Roman Catholic separate schools in Ontario would represent a fundamental change in public policy in our province; and

"Whereas it is uncertain whether extension would contravene the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: and

"Whereas in democratic societies there is a recognized convention which respects the rule of law that before fundamental changes in public policy are implemented such matters are debated in the Legislative Assembly, with an opportunity for the public to appear and be heard before an appropriate committee of the Legislature;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on

the government:

"1. To seek a constitutional referral prior to any implementation to determine whether extension would conflict with the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

"2. To debate fully the issue of extension prior to any implementation, such debate to include consideration of the issue by an appropriate committee of the House with an opportunity provided for the people to appear and be heard."

There is a further petition signed by 30 members of West Hill Secondary School; and a similar petition signed by 25 members of Georgian Bay Secondary School.

Mr. Hennessy: I have a petition from St. Peter's Church.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, support full funding for the completion of the Catholic separate school system with its implementation in September 1985."

I have another petition from 426 people at St. Dominic's Church, one from 430 people at St. Agnes Church and one signed by a group of 126 people.

MOTIONS

HOUSE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the House not sit in the chamber on Wednesday, July 3, 1985.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the Clerk conduct a new ballot to establish the precedence for private members' public business and that notwithstanding standing order 64(a) such business not be considered until the first Thursday in the fall session.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

HOMES FOR THE AGED AND REST HOMES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Warner moved, seconded by Mr. Wildman, first reading of Bill 31, An Act to amend the Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Warner: The purpose of this bill is to prevent the discharge of a resident from a rest home or a home for the aged without the approval of a physician independent of the home and without ensuring there are suitable alternative accommodations for the resident. The amendment is similar to the requirements for discharge from a nursing home under the regulations to the Nursing Homes Act.

4 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Eakins, resolution 1:

That the Treasurer of Ontario be authorized to pay the salaries of the civil servants and other necessary payments pending the voting of supply for the period commencing July 1, 1985, and ending October 31, 1985, such payments to be charged to the proper appropriation following the voting of supply.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The passage of this motion would make available, I am told, \$8.2 billion to pay the expenses of the province between now and October 31. At the present time, the bills of the province are being paid on the basis of special warrants issued by the Lieutenant Governor. These have covered our business expenses for the last three months and have amounted to approximately \$6.4 billion.

The rules of the House do not permit interim supply to extend for a period longer than six months. Some members of the House will recall that there was a time when we did not have such a rule and the government of the day, by motion and often without debate, used to extend interim supply, or received interim supply from the House, for the whole of the fiscal year. This seemed to make fairly redundant the debates on estimates and even the passage of the supply bill at the end of the year. Therefore, I still very

strongly support the concept that interim supply should not extend for the whole of the year.

If approved by the House, this supply would extend to the end of October. It is certainly expected that whatever our business between now and then there will be a period of recess, but we should be returning some time after Thanksgiving, as is our usual custom, so that there will be ample opportunity for the House to consider further supply between the end of October and when the supply bills are before the House, usually in December.

With the long time the House was in recess following our adjournment last December—the time for the Conservative leadership convention, the election and then the rather long, drawn-out drama that led to the establishment of the new government just a few days ago—we as members of the Legislature have not had an opportunity to hear a budget or to consider estimates. That is really why our finances in this respect are somewhat irregular.

However, the House is in session and, based on our experience in previous budgetary periods, we know the standard bills require just a bit over \$2 billion a month and the experts in Treasury, who are never wrong, as far as I know, have indicated that between now and October 31 we will require just over \$8 billion to meet our regular commitments, most of which already have been entered into.

I ask the House to grant this interim supply with the understanding that I, as the new Treasurer, will have an opportunity to put forward a financial statement, really on the same terms as those of my immediate predecessor less than three weeks ago, but also with the understanding that a full budget, indicating the position of the new government as far as its financial responsibilities are concerned, will be placed before the House in October of this year.

Miss Stephenson: I am pleased to rise at this time to participate in the debate on the motion placed by the Minister of Treasury and Economics, the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. I would be remiss if I did not remind the member that the motion for supply was ready in the period of time when the former government was in that part of the House and that supply motion was one which would have obviated the need for today's supply. I gather there was disagreement on the part of the then members of Her Majesty's loyal opposition and the opportunity to present the supply motion, which would have been precisely the same as that being presented today by the

member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, was not provided to us.

There is no doubt that this supply motion is absolutely necessary because, in the words of the current Premier (Mr. Peterson), the excellent civil service of this province requires that money, first, for its remuneration and, second, to pay the bills for the services provided for the citizens of Ontario.

As a tangential remark to that, I would simply say that the minister is absolutely correct. The senior staff members of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics have expertise which is superb, as I am sure the minister has learned in the last few days. It is expertise that will serve him very well.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: If they can accommodate the member and me, they must be good.

Miss Stephenson: They are better than good, much better than good and much better than the kind of remark I hear the Liberal leader suggested was factual in his repartee with the press during the lockup today.

None the less, it is absolutely essential that the superior civil service be provided with the appropriate levels of remuneration and the funds to continue to deliver their programs. It is possible for this province to do this at this time because of the very good economic record of the previous government.

The previous government has provided an example which I am sure the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk will do well to emulate in many areas. It is an example of thrift, which I was delighted to hear he felt was a word with which he was comfortable. It is a six-letter Anglo-Saxon word which is not of dubious birth. It is a very normal and reasonable exercise for those who are responsible for provincial Treasuries to attempt to pursue with all vigour and intent.

The revenues of this province have improved in spite of certain disturbances that took place at the federal-provincial level in the past year and they have improved because of the very good economic programs of the former government of Ontario.

I hope the economic programs of the new government will be equally productive and that the kinds of things the first minister was suggesting he would review, which are specifically related in many instances to the stimulus of employment and job opportunity for a significant number of people in Ontario, will increase the revenues significantly and allow us to continue with the program of increased revenues in the province.

Without question, we could have ensured there would not have been a hiatus as a result of the change of government in the delivery of funds, which I gather must have necessitated special action last Thursday morning in order to overcome the period of two days for which there was no financial support available to the government of the province. That could have been avoided completely had there been some generosity on the part of current government members in terms of the process, which could have been instituted last week or the week before.

The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has suggested that the normal state of affairs has not been in place in this House, and he is quite right. The former government was attempting to operate in spite of a very peculiar arrangement, which is quite unique in parliamentary history. In spite of that, it was attempting to do its very best on behalf of the civil service and on behalf of the people whom the government serves.

We did have an economic statement and were prepared to bring in a budget that would have ensured there would be continuing economic growth in the province and continuing capacity, not only to meet the requirements of the people of Ontario in terms of financial commitment but also to ensure that this province maintains its excellent record as an area for investment for those who are interested, both within this country and outside of it.

There is little the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk can add to the kind of program that was proposed by the former government of Ontario—that gets very difficult to say, forgive me—in terms of the kinds of developments which were necessary for that improved—

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It is even harder to say they were perfect, which is what the member is trying to say.

4:10 p.m.

Miss Stephenson: No; I would never suggest anyone was perfect. As a practising physician for more than 30 years, I have yet to meet the perfect human being. I do not believe there is one. The members on that side of the House are no exception to that rule, if I may say so. The members on this side of the House understand we are not perfect. We understand that people make mistakes from time to time. However, we also understand that when they do so it is right to recognize and correct them. That is probably one of the things that marks a significant difference between the members of the party which now form Her Majesty's loyal opposition and the

members of the party which now forms the government of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: You mean that is why you are over there.

Miss Stephenson: Oh, no. That is why it is so important to recognize that the federal government understands it made a mistake; unlike the Liberals' federal leader, who goes around telling everybody that people will have lost trust and credibility is destroyed completely simply because the government recognized it made a mistake and corrected it. That is what we on this side of the House understand and that is the kind of position we will continue to pursue in all of our activities, whether they are related to opposition or to government. We certainly did that when we were the government of the province and we will continue to do so.

The economy of this province is the engine of development or economic performance in Canada, but it is not, as the honourable minister's leader suggested, a steam engine. That is entirely out of date. We do not stoke our engine in this province. We provide it with appropriate stimulus and guidance and a prod from time to time, but we do not have to stoke it with wood or coal in order to make it function. I believe the people of Ontario will understand that its first minister really does not know how this province functions in terms of its economic activity and its leadership of that activity within this great country, Canada.

There is no doubt in my mind that we will without question support the introduction of the supply motion. We understand the capacity, the quality, the superiority of the public service in this province as related to all others throughout Canada and, indeed, the world. We understand it is their right to receive appropriate remuneration and on time.

We know it is necessary to provide funds to ensure the continuance of the excellent programs in the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Stimulation of the economy and the services provided in the area of natural resources must continue to be supported financially if they are to play their part in the services provided to the people of Ontario and with respect to the economic performance of this province and country.

Therefore, we shall support the supply motion with enthusiasm, but also with just a little bit of sadness that the honourable members of now Her Majesty's government would not have seen fit to develop an agreement that would have allowed

this supply motion to have been introduced two weeks or 10 days ago, whenever it was necessary, to ensure there would not be any concern on the part of the civil service, the recipients of funds or the people of Ontario that there might be a period of time in which there was no government money to provide those services.

We shall support the supply motion. Her Majesty's loyal opposition is mindful of its responsibilities in this area. In all activities, including this one, we shall discharge those responsibilities with sensitivity, compassion and the sure knowledge that we are serving the people of this province effectively.

Mr. Foulds: We will be supporting the motion for interim supply, but I will take a bit longer about this matter than the previous speaker.

I want to try to put my remarks in a context because, frankly, there are two ways of approaching interim supply. We can approach it, as is often the case, as if it were a mere accounting matter, as if we were only passing the amount of money the government wishes to spend for the next three months or so. The other way we can approach it, as we can a provincial budget, is that it is not merely an accounting matter but a matter of economics, of the development of the provincial economy.

I would like to talk about this for a few minutes because this is the first time I have had an opportunity to speak to the new Treasurer. I would like to treat this as a matter of the economic development of the province and not treat it as merely an accounting procedure or as merely deciding where the dollars we have already garnered in the provincial coffers are going to be spent. I would like to discuss a bit about the economy of the province and about where the Treasurer and the government should be going in the next few weeks, months and years. I plan to be fully wrapped up before the normal adjournment time at the supper hour.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: What? You have to be kidding.

Mr. Foulds: The member should relax. He has a new role and he has to learn to live with it. He has to learn to live with opposition speeches. The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) was given to very long ones when the spirit moved him. I do not plan to go on that long, but there are five or six major points I would like to make.

The Treasurer is well known as a man for frugality. He is a man who likes to make sure the taxpayer's dollar is well spent. He has had that reputation in this House for as long as I have been

here and probably for longer than that. It is a reputation that is justly deserved and an objective with which I agree. I believe the taxpayer's dollar should be well spent.

However, I would remind the Treasurer that, unlike my Conservative friends, spending the taxpayer's dollar well is not merely a matter of business or accounting, because the business of government is to provide social services that are much needed by the population; and that cannot be accounted for or justified merely on the normal cost-benefit analysis method used in business.

The government certainly needs to be constantly aware of where it gets its money and whose money it is spending. The Premier in his statement today talked constantly about the people. One of the things we have to remember is that there is an unfair tax system both in the province and in the country. That has been documented from the time of the Carter commission and, in Ontario, from the time of the Smith committee.

The irony of our present governmental budgetary process is that the so-called safety net, which both Conservatives and Liberals like to talk about, is largely financed by those in need of a social safety net. In other words, there is an unduly harsh and heavy burden of taxation on the ordinary Canadian, on the ordinary Ontarian, on the person who is in need of a social safety net. 4:20 p.m.

My first word of advice to the Treasurer in his new role is that he must begin now in his thinking, in his economic statements and in the budgetary process, to reform the taxation system. I want to point something out to the Treasurer, if he has not already been made aware of it by his officials. How that phrase must roll off his tongue these days—"his officials." I noticed the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) earlier in question period talked about "his officials." The proprietary air that has already taken hold in the new government is encouraging to watch.

In Ontario more than 2,000 people earned in excess of \$50,000 a year and paid no income tax in 1982.

Mr. McLean: Farmers.

Mr. Foulds: No, indeed they were not all farmers. I am not sure if either the member or myself has met a farmer who paid no income tax in 1982. If the member is now making that claim, I say to the Treasurer that person is exactly the one who should be paying some income tax.

There were 55 people who earned more than \$851,000 in 1982 and paid no income tax. If the member who interjected is in that category, then I say he should be paying even more taxes.

Mr. McLean: I pay more than he does.

Mr. Foulds: The Treasurer should bring in, at his earliest opportunity, a reform of the taxation system in Ontario in so far as it is possible. The system should be reformed so those people who are freeloaders pay their fair share.

Second, I would point out to the Treasurer that the corporate sector in this province is not paying its fair share of taxation. There are \$1.5 billion in deferred or uncollected corporation taxes in this province. For every dollar large corporations pay in tax in this province, they get a tax break of \$1.07. In other words, they gain seven cents.

I would suggest to the Treasurer that he should adopt an idea that was put forward by Eric Kierans on the Peter Gzowski show—whatever it is called these days. Mr. Kierans suggested to the Minister of Finance of Canada, and I am suggesting to the Treasurer of Ontario, that he assess a prime rate plus one per cent interest on all those uncollected corporate taxes. If he did that, as Mr. Kierans pointed out so vividly that morning, he would see those taxes rolling in so fast he would not know what revenue had hit the provincial Treasury.

In fact, it is only by tackling that problem of tax giveaways that he is going to meet the tax revenue problem facing the provincial government. The provincial government does have a tax revenue problem. It cannot begin new housing programs that are necessary. It cannot begin to meet the social and economic injustice that faces many in our population unless it implements genuine reforms in the taxation system.

I am suggesting to the Treasurer that be his first priority.

I personally found the last speech of the Treasurer in this House most dignified, proper and moving. I thought it was one of the finest speeches he has given. I would like to quote to the Treasurer a few sentences from his own speech.

He said: "It is our unbelievably good fortune to be in a part of the world where this assembly concerns itself with a triple-A credit rating rather than with 1,000 per cent inflation; that we concern ourselves with extra billing by doctors rather than a mortality rate, as in some countries, of positively medieval proportions; that we are concerned with the overproduction of food rather than with starvation camps full of children; that we are concerned with the pollution of our

bathing beaches, not with how the government is going to bury the bodies left by a tidal wave; that we are concerned with policing speed limits, not with daily terrorism and mayhem."

In so far as the Treasurer's statement goes, I agree and support it wholeheartedly. We live in an unbelievably rich province with enormous potential. But I point out to the Treasurer in the strongest possible terms that there is still great social and economic injustice in our province.

I just want to give a few examples. We have before us today the tragedy of the Grassy Narrows Indian reserve, devastated by mercury pollution over a decade and a half ago when the government put up the "Fish for Fun" signs; devastated by the federal government's decision to arbitrarily move the reserve. In that corner of the world, we have a tragedy that is every bit as profound, as devastating and inhumane as any condition in the Third World. That is here in Ontario.

In a decade, that wrong has not been righted. We have not taken the opportunity or the initiative, or worked—even knowing that failure would be the result of several of our initiatives—but we have not worked long and hard enough to eradicate the poverty, not only in economic terms but in social and spiritual terms, that our conflict with our native people has visited on the Whitedog and Grassy Narrows Indian reserves. We must take the initiative and we must take it soon to have any credibility as a humane and decent society.

We do not have to talk only about the native reserves in this province, few though they are, to understand that poverty in Ontario is real, devastating and shameful. There are the people my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) has talked about movingly over the last three to four years. There are people in our urban centres and small rural towns who are living below the poverty line on incomes assured them by the government.

One of the things we have to realize and that I want to bring home to the Treasurer is that in many ways our so-called social safety net is only a guarantee of ensured poverty. The statistics are startling and the human tragedy behind those statistics are even more startling. The latest statistics for which we have figures indicate that in Ontario, by region, over the period 1982 to 1983, we had a 24 per cent increase in the number of families living below the poverty line set by the National Council of Welfare. In 1982 to 1983, we had a 25.9 per cent increase in the

number of unattached individuals living below the poverty line.

When we talk in those percentage terms, we are not talking about small numbers. With regard to families, we are talking about 281,800 in 1983. That is one heck of a lot of families to be living below the poverty line in a province as rich and diverse as Ontario. With regard to unattached individuals, we are talking about 373,100. That is a heck of a lot of unattached individuals to be living below the poverty line in a province as rich as Ontario.

4:30 p.m.

One of the things that worries me, when we debate in this House and when we debate on the hustings, is what we talk about or what we think of as average Ontarians and average Canadians. Those are the people who are lucky enough to be part of the middle class and to have incomes around our incomes or better. Those are the people with whom we socialize and who have the most influence on our thoughts.

It is not enough for a government of reform and progress merely to meet the needs of the middle class. It is important for a government of progress and reform to meet the needs of the genuinely disadvantaged in our society and of those disadvantaged whose needs it is not politically popular to meet.

I have had no more moving experience in the last two months than listening for half an hour to interviews conducted by Stuart McLean on the Morningside show. We heard of grown individuals in large cities, in this community of Toronto and our community of Ontario, who had not eaten for two and three days.

They would find some way of getting a meal. They were people who were obviously willing and able to look for work. I remember the phrase of one young man, who I think was from Newfoundland. It struck me so much that it has haunted me. He said to the interviewer that as he talked about not being able to face other people about his state of poverty, "I cannot speak to you when tears come into my eyes."

It reminded me so much of Shaw's aphorism that the only real crime in our society is poverty. It is about time, and the member has a glorious opportunity as Treasurer, to tackle the problem of poverty in our society. Poverty in our society is real, although we do not like to admit it exists. It is genuine and we have to root it out. I want to put the Treasurer on notice that it is not merely putting a human face on the social service system; it is reforming the social service system so it meets real human needs with dignity.

I want to talk a bit along that line. It is shameful that in this province we accept as a daily occurrence in the large communities of our province that there are such things as soup kitchens or bread lines. It is almost impossible to get the statistics, but every major centre from Thunder Bay to Toronto has something called a bread line or a soup kitchen where people literally line up, usually before a social service agency or a church, at one part of the day and wait for the doors to open so they can go and get food because they have no food. If they do not get either a meal to sit down to or the groceries they line up for, they will go without food.

I would like to remind the Treasurer that there are many of these people referred to in clippings just in the last few months. There is controversy in my community, for example, over whether there should be emergency shelter for people who are termed derelicts, but who are really people without means. There is controversy over how to fund that. Surely in a caring and decent society we have to accept the responsibility to be our brother's keeper. Those people are our brothers.

I would like to talk for a few minutes about one problem that has not been addressed in any of the statements made by the present Premier or Treasurer, and was not spoken to in the accord which was so fleetingly referred to in the Premier's statement this afternoon. I bring my concern to the Treasurer because, as the former leader of his party, I know he travelled widely in northern Ontario, often without political success, but that did not daunt him. I know his interest in the area is genuine.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: We almost won in Port

Mr. Foulds: Your party won it in 1967, but lost it very quickly. It was, as he will recall all too ruefully, a Pyrrhic victory indeed. However, I must admit—the Treasurer has diverted me—the candidate they had this time, although new and inexperienced, was a very fine one and really representative of the party. I was delighted he took more votes away from the Tories than he took from me.

I want to get back to the main argument before me, and that is there has been no mention of tackling the very real problem of diversification of single industry towns. Before we go off examining helter-skelter the question of free trade, I believe it is absolutely urgent that we look first at the kind of economy we want to build in our province, and the kind of linkages we want to make between the resource sector, whether

that is agriculture or the resources of northern Ontario, and the manufacturing and processing sectors in southern Ontario. It is only if we start making genuine attempts, not mere money handouts, to diversify the single industry towns of northern Ontario, that we will begin to have what economists call a "mature economy" in this province.

I was disappointed, to put it mildly, that we were unable to get from the present Liberal government a commitment to establish a single industry diversification fund for northern Ontario. If we are genuinely going to create an economy in northern Ontario that is not colonial, I believe it is absolutely essential to establish a northern Ontario heritage fund.

In reading the press clippings of Peter Lougheed's resignation of last week, which almost eclipsed the swearing in of this government on the national stage, it was interesting to note that some of the commentators thought his biggest failure was that the establishment of the Alberta Heritage Fund had not led to a diversification beyond the resource base of the Albertan economy. However, I put to the Treasurer that unless he has such a fund there will be no maturing of the northern Ontario economy.

4:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I wonder if the honourable member would permit a question. Did he hear the Premier direct, through the ministry, the Ontario Development Corp. to move more development funds into the north and east?

Mr. Foulds: Yes, indeed; I not only heard but also read the Treasurer's speech. I had a copy of it, so there was visual reinforcement.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: The member is talking like a teacher.

Mr. Foulds: I do not consider that an insult, considering the source. I have always thought politicians should be readers and teachers as well as parliamentarians.

The trouble with the Northern Ontario Development Corp., and its whole idea, is that it looks at proposals put to it on a one-to-one basis. It does not take a look at what is needed in the area of new initiatives or new economic developments. It does not ensure, for example, that a mining town has manufacturing and forest-based industries to make its economy more diverse.

In other words, the NODC, the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. and the Ontario Development Corp. are largely reactive. Those bodies react to initiatives; they do not take

initiatives, and there is no overall economic planning, either for a region or for a community.

I give the example of Atikokan. It was only after the mine closed that the former Minister of Northern Affairs, the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier), started throwing money at the problem. I am afraid that throwing money at the problem, even through an NODC grant or loan, often does not solve the problem; it does not create a full fledged economy in that region.

Along with addressing tax reform and meeting the needs of poverty in this province, I ask the minister to begin to tackle the very real problem of creating diversified economies in northern Ontario.

As sure as I am standing here today, unless we do something in the next eight years to reverse the trend in the pulp and paper industry and in the forestry industry, we will not have a pulp and paper base to the northwestern Ontario economy in 30 years; and 75 per cent of the jobs in my region are dependent on the pulp and paper industry.

One sees a company such as Great Lakes Forest Products taking the capital that is generated in this province and investing it in the state of Washington. When one sees that and the lack of reforestation under the former government, it is apparent our pulp and paper industry is in a very tight corner indeed.

There are startling developments in the pulp and paper industry in Japan, of all places. Pulp and paper manufacturing is the fifth-largest industry in this country and the largest earner of foreign dollars. Maybe it is the fifth-largest industry in Ontario, but I am not sure of that. However, when one sees the new developments in Japan, one realizes this industry in our province is threatened more than the auto industry. Yet governments have paid very little attention to ensuring its competitiveness and longevity.

When talking about the diversification of one-industry towns, one must consider that the corporation that took all the ore out of the mines at Atikokan did not pay a cent in royalties. The only income accruing to the province from the extraction of that ore was the income tax paid by employees of that company.

When one considers all that, one realizes what has happened to the economy of northern Ontario and the steps needed to be taken to remedy it. I would very much like the Treasurer to pay attention to the development of industry in the underdeveloped regions of our province.

I want to say a few things about public ownership. I know that during the past couple of years when the Liberal Party was in opposition, it pledged to sell off the shares in Suncor Inc. I noticed there was no mention of that in the Premier's speech today. The Treasurer has mouthed to me, quite rightly, "Nobody wants it." He cannot sell it even if the government wants to.

I use that as an illustration of this point to the Treasurer. We in this party are committed to public ownership, but not in a holus-bolus way. As our federal party reaffirmed on the weekend, we have a commitment to public ownership. We do not think public ownership is a bad idea. We think some adventures in public ownership by Liberal governments at the federal level and Conservative governments at the provincial level have been ill advised.

The Treasurer should not let Kirk Foley, Malcolm Rowan or his former federal colleagues—some of whom are his present federal colleagues, although they are playing the opposition role these days—give public ownership a bad name. If he is truly to have his hands on the levers of economic power, it is going to be necessary to have public ownership: some public ownership in the resource sector and, believe it or not, as the former Conservative government found out, some public ownership in the manufacturing sector.

I suggest to the Treasurer that public ownership is a valuable tool that could be well used and well considered by this government. He should not let Mr. Kruger, in his examination of crown corporations, persuade him to an ideological straitjacket, which became the ideological straitjacket of the former government.

Finally, I want to say that I admire the career of the present Treasurer. I admire his commitment in this House to the parliamentary democracy of this House. I admire his commitment to the values of frugality and making wise use of the taxpayers' dollars. However, I want to leave him with this note: the politics of hardheadedness can be combined with the politics of warmheartedness.

It is important in our society to ensure that we rectify and change the very real, grinding poverty that exists in our rich province, which makes it even more shameful and more tragic than that of the Third World, and the very real social and economic injustices that are still existent in our province. We need to bring in steps to ensure there is at least an attempt made to eradicate poverty in this rich and wonderful province.

4:50 p.m.

Mr. McCague: I want to start by congratulating the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk on assuming the duty he was asked to do by the Premier. I hope he can live with all the statements he has made so eloquently over the past 10 years while I have been here and, no doubt, previous to that time.

I have already had the opportunity to return to the honourable member a comment he made to me. I remember the first time I spoke in this House he sent me a note saying, "Do you really believe that?" I have already returned the same note to him, and I presume I will have the opportunity to do that the odd time in the next couple of weeks during the short spell he will be in that position.

No doubt the Treasurer is frugal. Shortly after he introduced his motion, I saw him turn to the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) behind him to borrow a buck or two so he could make a purchase through our able pages from the store downstairs.

I also want to congratulate the Treasurer who I recall, just after I got a car and driver, complained to me bitterly about a speeding ticket he got driving in from the great riding of Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. I trust he will be relieved of any chance of that happening now and will enjoy being chauffeured with a lack of the tickets I know he was so accustomed to getting.

I find interesting the conflicts that seem to exist between the Treasurer and his Premier. The Treasurer was quick today to compliment what I know to be a very efficient and dedicated staff. It was interesting to hear the Premier say that when it came to advice that might come from the Ministry of the Attorney General, it really was not of great importance; the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) would make up his mind as to how matters were to proceed. I see a definite conflict in that.

In the speech we have heard today and in other musings our new Premier has had for the press, the Treasurer has been asked to consider a great many programs and expansions of programs at the same time as he has been asked to maintain the fiscal integrity of the province which the government I represented looked after so well over a period of years.

I think the Treasurer is a frugal enough person to work diligently at that. What makes me wonder are a couple of things the Treasurer is fully aware of. One cannot introduce new programs without having the revenues to do it. There are a couple of planned things that we as legislators need to be concerned about as they affect revenues. There is the introduction of the spills bill without due consideration for its effects on manufacturing, on trucking and on the people who are responsible. I endorse the ultimate aim, but I think the Treasurer has to be careful not to discourage industry, manufacturing and, in the long run, employment in this province.

The government has to be careful in what I call tampering with rent controls. I see no merit in extending the apartments to which rent controls apply when the other side of the coin is more assisted housing. If we were to leave the rent situation alone, everyone would be adequately served and we would see new construction.

The government has to be careful in its endeavours in the area of equal pay for work of equal value. I see the government is already backtracking on its original commitment and saying it will be in the public sector only and not in the private sector. I suggest that on the other two items I mentioned the government might be well advised to retract a little and protect the revenue it is going to need so badly to introduce the programs outlined in the set of promises in the Premier's statement today.

I am pleased the Premier wants to call on the federal government to stand behind the quotas unless and until the Japanese auto firms boost their investment in Canada and Ontario receives economic concessions that will ensure jobs for our auto workers. As all members will know, we are very pleased in my home town of Alliston to have the Honda plant well under construction, with 350 jobs. I understand the first car will be off the line considerably earlier than was originally forecast, which was early in 1987.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Is the member going to trade in his Seville?

Mr. McCague: I do not have a Seville. I know the Treasurer likes the tax on Sevilles, but I do not have one.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Did the member trade it up then?

Mr. McCague: I have a Tempo–I would like to buy the first Honda that comes off the line—and an Oldsmobile. What is the Treasurer driving these days?

The member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) cautioned the Treasurer–I forget how he put it, but he was not being entirely complimentary to Mr. Foley, who operates the Urban Transportation Development Corp. I cannot understand the honourable member's sentiments. After all, UTDC came to the rescue of Can Car, or Hawker

Siddeley, and the member's riding has enjoyed a high level of employment since that happened.

The member did raise with me some time ago the difficulty with the Via Rail car contracts and whether some of that work would go to Kingston and Thunder Bay. I understand the plant there is loaded with work.

Mr. Foulds: It was Kirk Foley who said they were not going to get any Via Rail contracts.

Mr. McCague: I understand, as I said, that the plant there is loaded with work.

Mr. Foulds: Yes, with about 600 people working. You call 600 jobs being loaded with work? That is why you guys are sitting where you are now.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Will the member please address his comments to the chair.

Mr. McCague: I thought the member would say nothing but kind things about the revitalization of that plant and the constant labour force there at this time.

In closing, I congratulate the Treasurer again. I wish him well. We will make it as difficult as possible and yet be constructive.

5 p.m.

Mr. Davis: I would like to offer my congratulations to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk on his appointment as Treasurer of this province.

I would like to say how concerned I am that we convey to the civil servants of our province our appreciation of their loyalty and commitment to this province and its people. The zeal they bring to their task certainly makes our task easier. We should support them and give them the recognition that is due.

I would like to point out to the honourable member that there are a number of concerns we would have with his position. One concern is the cost of educational funding. There is a suggestion that we should move the funding to 60 per cent of the total cost. He needs to take a hard look at how we will generate those funds. It is easy to indicate to the public that we can afford that kind of luxury. However, the member and I both know that luxury still comes out of the pocket-books of the taxpayers of this province.

To compound the difficulty of the direction the new government would like to take, there is the additional cost of extending funding of the separate schools. The members of the new government have yet to indicate what those costs are. I suggest they take a hard look at those costs and indicate to this House and to the people of the province how they are going to augment those costs, which I think are quite substantial.

I was glad to see they had something in their address about care for the aged. That is one of my areas of concern, the right of people to stay in their homes as long as they can. Again, it seems we are looking for more money. In some not-too-distant future, the honourable member must indicate to us how he is going to find those funds.

Not only is it difficult to get a homemaker to come into the home, but the cost is prohibitive for most people. The costs of programs we are now locked into are going to place us in a very difficult position as we attempt to deliver the services we have all covenanted to give to the seniors of our province.

With rent controls, I have some concern that what is going to happen is a massive selloff of the various apartment buildings by the owner-landlords. We are going to find it difficult to live within a four per cent limit on rent increases. The new government needs to take a hard look at that in order to create the entrepreneurial spirit of this province, rather than to kill it.

The Treasurer has a difficult job. I believe he is going to have great difficulty funding all the initiatives proposed by his leader this afternoon. I would point out to him and to my colleagues in this House that no matter how we split the hair, it is still the residents of this province who have to pick up the costs. I suggest that, as was the hallmark of an organization I belonged to, if we are going to expend money in area Y, we should reduce money in area Z.

Although I am not a businessman, I was responsible for raising funds as a free-will offering from people. That depended on my ability to encourage them and to ask them to dig deeply into their pockets.

Not being a businessman, I would be very hesitant to go ahead and sell something of the dimensions of Suncor as a loss leader. My colleague would be well advised to take a hard look at allowing that sale to go ahead, considering the amount of money we could possibly lose. If we look at the oil cartel around the world, it seems to me it goes in a real cycle. Ultimately, that is going to be worth more money than it is now. I would hate to have to stand in this House at some point down the road in the short term and point out to my colleagues on the other side that that crown property was now worth double what it was worth when they proposed to sell it.

I also think there is a sense of ownership in Suncor, that it belongs to the people of Ontario. I do not have any great problems with our owning it and for the time being perceiving it as a loss leader. It is imperative that the people of Ontario believe they have some input and control over the

prices of gas, oil and heating.

While I am on that subject, one of the concerns the new government must look at is that on Thursday afternoon, I believe, one could buy gas in this city, especially in Scarborough, for 41 cents a litre, but on Friday morning it went up to 53 cents. One needs to examine that particular consequence. It is almost as if it is a predetermined decision-making process that when the long weekends come, everybody, including the members on the far side, likes to take a short vacation, and we pay for it.

I am pleased to be able to stand this afternoon to add a few words of wisdom to my colleagues on the other side. Somewhere in a great book it was once written that wisdom is the beginning of knowledge. That would be an important aspect for my colleagues. I wish them well in their new

endeavours.

Mr. Gillies: I take some very genuine pleasure in joining in the debate on the first motion put forward in the House by my colleague and friend the new Treasurer. I would like to congratulate him on his appointment to this very high office. I and my friend and neighbouring member of long standing have shared many battles together, not always on the same side, but considering the partisan constraints of this place and the forum within which we operate, one might be surprised at the number of times we have been on the same side on many fights and issues of interest to the people in our part of Ontario and those farther afield. I wish him well in his new duties.

In speaking to this motion, I would like to touch on a couple of points that arise primarily out of the statement of our new Premier earlier this afternoon—a couple of issues that will come before the House and relate to the motion before us inasmuch as just about everything we debate within this chamber involves the expenditure of public funds and will thereby be affected by this motion.

I was not in the chamber then, but I gather one of the questions raised earlier was about the need for the House to sit again so quickly after the adjournment of last week because of the necessity of passing this motion. It might be well to remind the House that the previous government could have put this motion, but my understanding is that the new government, at that time the official opposition, did not wish that to occur.

If I am wrong in that, I apologize, but I understand that is the case. While I do not think it is any big deal or of any particular interest, I think

it well to remember that we could have dealt with this motion several weeks ago.

With regard to substantive matters, I would like to focus the House's attention on one very key point in the new Premier's speech earlier this afternoon, that is, his intention to review some expenditures of the government and commitments of expenditure of the government that occurred in the last several months prior to our finding ourselves in this brave new world that constitutes the new makeup of the chamber. I can understand the desire of a new government to review any commitments for which it may find itself feeling some sense of responsibility.

5:10 p.m.

I do not want to go over all of the ground that was already very well covered by my colleague the former Treasurer of the province, the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson), in her question this afternoon. I think it well for all members to remember that there were some commitments made in the last several months which I am sure any objective member of the House would agree were very positive and progressive and of great benefit to the people of this province, some of which may have had nothing to do with the legislative timetable with which we now find ourselves dealing, but were in fact the business of government being carried on as it normally would be.

Because it seems so appropriate that the motion before us comes forward from my neighbouring member, I would like to focus for a moment on several commitments made by the previous government to the people of Brant county and area, which I hope are not going to suffer on the chopping block because of any statement made by the Premier earlier today.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Or the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies).

Mr. Gillies: I am going to talk about White Farm Equipment Canada Ltd. for a moment. I know the Treasurer would agree with me that he probably has almost as many employees of White Farm Equipment in his riding as I have in mine. All of us in southwestern Ontario share a tremendous concern about the future of that company and the 600-plus direct jobs that are affected by its future.

I know the Deputy Speaker is very familiar with this and it has some bearing on his great riding of Oxford. I would like to refresh the House's memory on several points I think are of great import. This company, the second-largest manufacturing concern in the city of Brantford, directly employs more than 600 members of

United Auto Workers Local 548. Suppliers and others involved with White Farm Equipment in one way or another would number several hundreds more.

At the time this company recently went into receivership—unfortunately not for the first time—it left many other suppliers in southwestern Ontario. I received letters and cables from companies as far away as Hamilton, Oakville, Cambridge, the riding of Oxford, the city of Woodstock and so on, all of which have a tremendous concern and a great financial stake in the future of White Farm.

The reason I bring it up in the context of the Premier's earlier statement is that the last administration, through a statement issued by the former Minister of Industry and Trade, the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt), and myself, made a commitment of some \$7 million towards the continuation of the White Farm company, contingent on a federal commitment.

This matter is now with the receivers and, as we speak in this chamber, there has not been a final decision from the government of Canada. I am hoping, and I am sure my friend the Treasurer has been lobbying as hard as I and many others have, to see some sort of favourable resolution of this matter on Parliament Hill. However, I am left with an unease that, even if it was a contingency commitment of the former government to help in the refinancing of the White Farm company, it not fall by the wayside because of any review of expenditures and commitments by the new government.

I hope my friend the Treasurer will take this back to the Premier. The Premier is familiar with this issue. During the campaign, he went into the riding of Brantford and he made some commitment at that time, I believe, for a training fund. I will also be looking to see whether that particular campaign promise of our new Premier bears any fruit, that a small fund could be set up for counselling and retraining White Farm workers if required.

I feel it very important to have on the record that my first and primary commitment is to the continuation of the company. However, should that not be possible, then we must move heaven and earth to retrain and reintegrate these workers back into the work force. I will be looking, as I am sure many members from southwestern Ontario will be, for a strong commitment from our new government in this regard.

Another commitment, which I suppose could be put in the context of the review the Premier intends, is the stated intention of the previous government to help fund an international telecommunications discovery centre in the city of Brantford.

My riding was hit as hard as any in the province during the recession. We have had in Brant county a cyclical economy, primarily because of the very large farm-equipment industries that dominate the area and the pressing need for us to diversify our local economy.

For some years, a committee of people in Brant county has been working very hard towards the realization of a dream that would lead to a very significant change in the economy of Brant county. Some years ago, Bell Canada pledged to the city of Brantford all its archives, its collection of artefacts and working models—a tremendous historical collection valued at millions of dollars—if a suitable facility could be erected for their display. At first the committee envisioned a museum and nothing more, but as the committee, made up of industrialists, community leaders and politicians in the Brantford area, worked on this, it developed into a multifaceted and very exciting concept.

The total costs of the project are estimated to be more than \$15 million. It would create a tremendous amount of new employment in our area and, very significantly, nonindustrial employment. We want to bring in researchers, scientists, technicians, futuristic-looking companies, people who rely heavily on computer linkups, satellite technology and so on. We want that kind of futuristic employment in our community.

We believe this international telecommunications discovery centre would become the focus of that type of employment. Indeed, at the risk of overstating it, this project has the support of virtually every telecommunications company across Canada, including the government-owned telephone networks in the western Canadian provinces; Telecom Canada; Bell Canada, as I have already stated, as well as computer companies and the previous government of Ontario.

We feel it is vital for the future economy of that part of Ontario that the project go ahead. The previous government committed \$5.5 million through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development fund. We are awaiting a federal commitment of a similar order. The balance of the funding is to come from the private sector.

I would again ask the Treasurer, not only as the man who now controls the purse-strings of the province but as a resident and a committed leader in Brant county, whether it would be the intention of the new government to see that

project through or whether it will fall prey to the axe of the Premier's review of projects.

Those are a couple of regional concerns I wanted to bring up. In that context, the Premier said in his statement this afternoon he intends that a larger percentage of Ontario Development Corp. funds will go to northern and eastern Ontario. From a regional perspective I fully appreciate the economic needs and some of the hardships being endured in some communities in northern and eastern Ontario.

As the minister who was most recently responsible for manpower policy in this province, I am fully aware that some areas in the north and east bear an unconscionably high proportion of the province's unemployment and I support any measure to funnel needed resources into those areas. As Minister of Skills Development, I was keenly aware of the highest level of youth unemployment in Ontario being in northeastern Ontario.

Far be it from me to try to steer any resources away from the communities that need them most. However, I would suggest to my friend the Treasurer that there are individual communities in the rest of the province which, because of their industrial or economic situation, still bear unemployment rates that are unacceptably high.

I would consider my own riding of Brantford to be in that category. I would ask the new government, in implementing this policy, not to let areas of need in western and southern Ontario suffer in their proportion of ODC funding because of our genuine and shared desire to improve the situation of our citizens in the north and east.

5:20 p.m.

Another matter that came up in the Premier's statement that I feel is going to be a policy to cause some modest degree of disagreement in this chamber in the months to come is the question of the sale of beer and wine in grocery stores. The Treasurer knows I am not above the odd beer or glass of wine. I am not being prudish or trying in any way to raise the flag of temperance over this great chamber; this has never been my policy.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: However.

Mr. Gillies: However.

Despite that, I am keenly aware, as are many members of the chamber, of the legitimate concerns of people who are engaged in one way or another in the wholesale or retail sale of alcoholic beverages in this province.

I have some concerns that go far beyond the question of jobs and delivery. I have lingering

concerns about the effect on the rate of alcoholism and alcohol consumption, especially abuse of alcohol by our young people, that may come about as a result of this policy. I do not want to get into all that now because there will be many opportunities for us to debate it.

I do want to touch on a couple of commonsense economic concerns. I just received a letter, as I suspect every member of the House did, from J. R. Davidson, the president of the Brewers' Warehousing Co. Ltd. I would like to quote from that letter, which is dated June 25.

The president of Brewers' Retail notes that: "Approximately 2,000 full-time and 4,500 part-time union jobs, jobs which we feel would be in jeopardy under any other beer distribution system, are held by Brewers' Retail employees."

The letter is somewhat personalized. It goes on to say, "In your constituency of Brantford alone, 21 full-time and 31 part-time jobs, representing an annual payroll of about \$948,000, are at stake if the system is to change."

He continues, "We also pay municipal and local business taxes on real estate valued at approximately \$968,000 which we own in Brantford." He also talks about the impact that Brewers' Retail has in our communities as landlords, as owners of property, as employers and as taxpayers.

In implementing this policy, as the Premier stated his intention today and has stated before, I trust the legitimate concerns of people working in this area will be given a full and thorough hearing. I feel it incumbent on the government to listen to what members of both sides of the House have to say on this issue. I feel it is incumbent on the government to listen to what the union involved has to say about it. It should listen to what Brewers' Retail, the Liquor Control Board of Ontario and others who share this concern have to say about it. I trust it will afford them a fair and open-minded hearing and not commit—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The member does not even have to say that. He knows it is going to happen.

Mr. Gillies: I have some concerns. Lord knows, I want to be convinced. I know if this matter were in the hands of the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), I would have no worries at all, because surely the chamber knows no more open-minded, sensible and fair individual. I know I am going to read this one again. Surely the government must listen to the very serious concerns of many members of the chamber on this issue before proceeding.

I will join with my colleagues in supporting the motion that is before us. Obviously we want to

see the bills and our civil servants paid; we want to see the work of government continue. But I raise these issues in the larger context of the debates that are going to take place in this chamber in the coming months.

We will want to hear-item by item, project by project, initiative by initiative—the government's intentions regarding the review announced this afternoon. We are going to want to know the specifics of many of the platforms that have been laid before us.

I and my colleagues will be talking in future weeks about some of the rhetoric and the high-sounding words that have been flying across the floor of the House about youth employment, training and any number of other things about which we have concerns. But I will say as fairly and openly as I can, the one thing the government will find now is that rhetoric is not enough. One thing they will find now is that we have our debates and we play our games in this chamber, but now is the time to produce.

I tell them sincerely that nobody wishes them more success in bringing in some of these things than I do, but I want them to know my colleagues and I will be watching with a critical eye and we will be judging them not on their campaign rhetoric but on their performance.

Mr. Speaker: Do you wish to move the adjournment of the debate?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: No. Let us finish it. If nobody else wants to speak, I would like to have a word.

Mr. Speaker: The question I was going to put was: Is there any other honourable member wishing to participate in the discussion of the resolution? The member for Eglinton.

Mr. McFadden: I know the government House leader wanted to give an address. I am sorry to pre-empt him for a few minutes.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The member walks in big shoes already.

Mr. McFadden: Yes. I am still trying them out.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak very briefly here this afternoon. I gave my maiden speech to this House a couple of weeks ago and I spent a lot of time preparing that speech. While I was doing it, I remembered the days when I worked as a researcher here back in 1968-69.

In those days, members would agonize over their speeches and researchers would do all their work, and the members would stand up in this place and speak to you, Mr. Speaker, and probably to five or six other members. Most of the other members were reading newspapers or conversing. I used to think what a tremendous ego deflater it must be to stand up to speak to nobody for 15 or 20 minutes, because the Speaker was half dozing anyway.

As it turned out with this speech, I was moved to speak on this subject this afternoon and I really have not spent much time on it, and I find there are a lot of members in the House. I guess the lesson from that is to take things as they come and to try to speak as—

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: It is called being prepared.

Mr. McFadden: That is right.

There were a couple of matters I wanted to speak on in relation to supply. One matter relates to trade issues. I note the proposal made this afternoon, mentioned in the address by the Premier, to set up a select committee on the economy with special reference to the discussion of free trade with the United States.

I have a real concern about the narrow focus of that committee. It is my submission that committee should expand its terms of reference to include not only a review of the potential free trade discussions with the United States, but also more particularly trade in a broad sense and freer trade worldwide.

Over the past couple of years, while we can be very encouraged by the trade figures that Canada has had with the United States and the surplus we have had in commodity trading, I think we have faced a very significant problem in our overall dependence on the United States for our export markets. Traditionally, the United States has represented something in the order of 70 per cent of our exports. Today, that figure has shot above 80 per cent and there is no indication right now, because of the strength of the Canadian dollar against other world currencies, that dependency on the United States is going to decrease.

It is my submission that the terms of the select committee should be expanded past the discussion of free trade with the United States to include the overall situation of Ontario trade worldwide. In recent years, the Ontario government has actively been pushing trade opportunities in Europe, in the Third World and in Japan, with some success. Over the past year or so, many of those efforts have come to naught because of the strength of the Canadian dollar, which has tended to close off various markets that traditionally we could have had some hope of breaking into in other countries.

5:30 p.m.

In focusing only on free trade with the United States, the select committee is only going to aid and abet, and potentially further, that concentration on our bilateral relations with the United States.

Today it is incumbent on this government and on this assembly to think more broadly and to concern itself with the whole future of trade with the United States and the world generally, and with whether we want to have more than 80 per cent of our exports go to the United States. I believe that is a significant economic problem. Some significant political issues are associated with it.

I would like to urge the government to consider the trade issues more broadly. I can see looking at free trade initially, but I hope some consideration will be given to broadening the terms of reference of that committee to take in broader trade issues.

There is another matter of concern that I have noticed has not had a lot of attention during the last couple of weeks; that is the question of job creation. The agenda for reform agreed to by the Liberal and New Democratic parties did not focus to any extent on job creation and economic development. There was no mention of programs for small business or of trade development. There was no mention of any significant programs in the area of job creation by big, small or medium-sized business. I believe that is a significant deficiency in view of the fact unemployment still remains a significant problem for this country and our province.

The agenda for reform was essentially a shopping list of items that basically involve expenditure. It is a concern of mine that an agenda for reform would be established, apparently providing for a two-year program of sorts between the two other parties that did not have, as a major focus, job creation, economic development and trade issues.

Mr. Foulds: Do you remember Frank Miller's last speech? We have full employment in Ontario if you believe him.

Interjections.

Mr. McFadden: We had a lot to cover over the last three years because of repeated failures of the federal government, but since November 1982, 455,000 new jobs were created in this province.

Mr. Martel: Tell that to the marines.

Mr. Foulds: Tell that to the unemployed.

Mr. McFadden: It is easy to sit and shout. I tell you they would have been an awful lot worse

off if it were not for the growth and the kind of economic policies created by the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the member would address the chair in that regard.

Mr. McFadden: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will. It is very hard when there is such a lot of disorder to my left.

Mr. Rowe: The far left.

Mrs. Grier: You will get used to it.

Mr. McFadden: That is true; I will get used to it. It seems to me that a major focus has to be, as it has been over the past number of years for the Progressive Conservative Party, that we move ahead in the whole area of job creation and focus strongly on that. I heard the proposals being made for more development in the north.

Mr. Foulds: At the breakfast club on Tuesday mornings what did you used to tell the Premier about northern development?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I remind the members this is not question period.

Mr. McFadden: The fact is that the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, and all the other programs such as the technology centres that were brought in over the past four years, speak for themselves in terms of the jobs that were created. The members to the left can sit and shout all they want.

An hon. member: Those guys have never created a job in their lives; not one. They would not know a real job if they tripped over it.

Mr. McFadden: Absolutely.

The members for the third party like to parade around the House and in the province as friends of the workers. The fact is that it is the business community, small business, big business and medium-sized business that creates the jobs. They can talk about being friends of the working man, as the NDP likes to parade itself, but the facts are the Conservative Party has been far more the friend of the working man because it has been the party that has been committed to job creation. The record speaks for itself. All I would ask the new government to do—

Mr. Martel: You sold the bloody country out lock, stock and barrel.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. McFadden: Let me just say in conclusion-

Interjection.

Mr. McFadden: Does he want me to keep going? I will.

In conclusion, all I can say is that I would hope-

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the honourable member for Eglinton continue.

Mr. McFadden: Mr. Speaker, I have been trying to finish my last sentence, but the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) will not let me.

All I wanted to say was I hope the new Liberal government follows the lead of the previous one in making job creation and economic growth a cornerstone of government policy here in Ontario. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I want to thank the members who participated in this debate. I can assure them I found it very helpful and useful. I say that very seriously indeed.

I particularly like the compliments that were directed toward the civil service and specifically to the Treasury staff. I think they are well merited and I am glad they came from all sides.

I thought perhaps I might refer to the comments made by the honourable members in reverse order.

The member for Eglinton (Mr. McFadden) and I have participated in a number of public panels from time to time. At one time we were on the same side of one, when he was assisting the late Honourable Joe Greene in his attempts to be Liberal leader in Ontario. I was participating on the same side in a way, but I was running against the late Mr. Greene on that occasion. At that particular time the member for Eglinton was perhaps more successful than he was in the most recent election.

However, I accept his advice that our policy direction ought to be substantially in support of job creation and, in that regard, trade development. As a party, we did not adopt the slogan "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs" in the recent election, since that has been so substantially discredited by the Conservative Party at the federal level. While they indicated that upon their election jobs would be created almost miraculously, simply by an effort of will, we realize there are still many disappointments in the employment force of the country and even in this province, although unemployment is at least declining. We are very pleased and delighted with that.

The member for Brantford, carving out a place in the opposition on the first day, very appropriately so, mentioned a number of things I thought were particularly important and interesting. I should tell him, however, the House was not called back into early session the day after July 1 simply to vote supply. I am sure he would know, as would the former Treasurer, the member for York Mills, that Management Board orders could have handled this if it were necessary or even if the House decided they did not want to grant supply this afternoon or even later today. The House came back essentially to organize itself under a new government so that we can proceed with dispatch with the funding bill for education.

5:40 p.m.

I might as well acknowledge the fact that the previous government was prepared to bring forward an interim supply bill before its defeat. At the time, however, the honourable members might remember the present Leader of the Opposition (Mr. F. S. Miller) was rattling all the sabres he could find in his office and among his friends, indicating that the then government was going to be maintained miraculously—a word he used repeatedly—and that one of the miracles might even be a reference to the courts, since it was obviously illegal that the Conservative Party should be beaten in this House by any kind of combination, patent or otherwise.

It was the thought of some of the constitutional experts we consulted—and, believe me, we did from time to time—that if we were to allow interim supply to come forward and be supported, the then Premier might have considered this as an indication of support and confidence by the newly elected Legislature and bring that to the attention of His Honour.

I see that the former Treasurer, my immediate predecessor, is putting on her mask of amazement, which she wears so beautifully from time to time. However, I thought she might know we acknowledge the fact that the former government was prepared to bring forward interim supply. We considered it and felt, when the transition took place as orderly as it did, that we could probably bring a motion for interim supply before the House with the expectation that it would be accepted.

The member for Brantford also raised the matter of the funding of White Farm Manufacturing Canada Ltd. Not every member of the House is as knowledgeable about it as he or, I say modestly, as I, since the two of us, as local members, have been involved in the issue now for a number of years. On the guarantee already put forward to White Farm by the government of Ontario, I believe we lost \$4 million over a

previous financial difficulty that was experienced. Now they are facing even more difficult financial realities.

The former government of the province offered \$7 million to assist them in maintaining their economic viability, and my friend and colleague, the present Premier, when he was campaigning in Brantford just a few weeks ago, indicated this government would support that offer. However, there is some thought, at least at White Farm Manufacturing, that the offer might be enlarged to \$10 million and there is some understanding that there was an oral commitment from the previous government in that connection. I have asked the officials who attended the meetings, and they indicate they are aware of the \$7 million commitment but not of anything beyond that.

It is also my understanding that a refinancing package of about \$42 million would be required to keep White Farm as a manufacturing unit and not to be dismembered by sale of its various parts. The federal government has the situation before it, and has had for many weeks, and it is not known whether it intends to take any action, even though we are coming very close to the deadline when the receivers will have to make some sort of decision.

The member for Brantford also indicated the former government had made a commitment of \$5.5 million to a telecommunications museum. As the local member, I am very keen that should go forward; however, as a member of a cabinet that is committed to reviewing decisions and assessing their viability in the light of the economic situation that we as a new government are examining, I cannot make any guarantees, other than, as I say, a personal one that I feel it is a very worthy program and project and would fit in very well with the Ontario Science Centre, Science North and other very important facilities that have been developed in this province and elsewhere.

I will spend just a minute talking about the last thing the member spoke about, which is the beer and wine policy. I am not sure what that has to do with interim supply, but presumably following the sterling example of their predecessors in opposition, the members feel they can talk about anything on interim supply and I guess I would be the last person to argue that they should not.

Members are aware that both the Progressive Conservative Party and the New Democratic Party have indicated something less than enthusiastic support for the policy put forward by the Liberal Party in the election campaign for adjusting our regulations to allow the sale of beer and wine in grocery stores. If this were to come forward after the negotiations the Premier announced today or, let us say, the discussions with people involved in it, I would hope it would be with the understanding that we had a package—if I may call it that—of such an attractive nature that we would count on the support of all members of the House.

I do not make any apologies whatsoever for the policy of the party being put forward in the campaign. I would not say we won on the basis of that alone. I would even say there are some townships in Brant county that were a little reluctant to vote for me on that basis. Still, it is a policy we are going to be discussing in the House from time to time.

The member for Scarborough Centre (Mr. Davis) is concerned about raising funds. I know in his previous capacity—I know he would never give it up since it is a calling—he had remarkable achievements in fund-raising. However, he could offer treasure in heaven, and here all we can offer is some kind of cockamamy bond or piece of paper. Perhaps our usefulness in raising money is somewhat reduced since we do not have quite the same quid pro quo the honourable member was using in his previous responsibilities. But I did appreciate his comments about the Treasury and our responsibilities as members of this House.

The member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague) referred to a couple of personal items. I assure him that even though I have been driving back and forth from my home in South Dumfries township to Toronto four times a week, I do not have any points against me at this stage. I have to drive home tonight, however, and I hope I do not lose all 12 of them before the former Treasurer's friend calls for me in the morning. I do not have any problems in that connection, but I do appreciate the concern of the honourable member.

He mentioned something that did bother me. He felt the statements made in question period indicated the ministry would have some conflicts with the public service. I do not believe the Premier's statement should be construed in that way. It should be construed only that when it comes to the point of having received advice it surely still lies with the ministers to consult with each other and then to make a ministerial statement.

I reiterate, we are proud of the quality of the civil service and have a great deal of confidence in their advice. But they understand that the decisions, political and otherwise, must be taken by the ministers who are elected members of this House and by no one else. I believe that was the content and intent of the Premier's statement, and I support him in that.

The member expressed a concern about the proclamation of the spills bill. There were a couple of questions from the Conservative opposition that indicated they are very reluctant to have it proclaimed, even though their members supported it at the time it went through the Legislature originally. Members should be aware, and I believe the statement has already been made by the appropriate ministry officials, that there will be consultation about the establishment of the regulations. We hope it can be made into a workable program.

I am just about finished my remarks. I see the Conservative whip is getting uneasy. He must have another party planned for six o'clock.

As usual, the member for Port Arthur gave an excellent speech. I used to listen to him when I was in opposition. I must say he even had some new ideas this time and a rather impassioned approach. He says: "Tax the freeloaders."

When I was driving in along the Gardiner Expressway, I used to notice a slogan painted on several concrete abutments there. Members of some party—he may be associated with it, I do not know—used to put their slogan on those walls with big paint cans. It said: "Make the rich pay." I thought: "What a great slogan that would be."

Mr. Foulds: Make the rich pay their fair share.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I think that was the Communist Party of Canada, not the New Democratic Party. But the concept of taxing the freeloaders is something I cannot reject because my—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Khrushchev lives.

But as the member is aware, the policy put forward by our party was to put a special tax of 20 per cent on incomes of more than \$50,000. The member's advice to me as Treasurer was to find some way to apply that or a similar tax—even the 10 per cent promised by the New Democratic Party. I hope we can do that.

I have even asked the officials—and we have already talked about how capable they are—how Ontario might be able to put such a tax on. So far they have told me it cannot be done, but maybe I will ask another official and see if he or she can think of something, because I am quite interested in it.

5:50 p.m.

He also mentioned something I want to refer to, and that is the situation involving the Grassy Narrows and Whitedog Indian reserves, the Grassy Narrows situation in particular. It is quite ironic that Great Lakes Forest Products, the successor to Reed, was granted substantial new timber limits by order in council just a few days before the government changed.

Mr. Harris: No, they were not.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: They were not? A forest management agreement?

Mr. Harris: They already had the timber limits.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: How come they were mentioned by name? Perhaps the former minister could tell me what they did get by order in council. What did he give them?

Mr. Pope: They got a forest management agreement, not timber limits.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: They got an FMA, and we know what that is.

Mr. Martel: That is a subject nobody knows about.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: All right, my point is this. It is quite within the powers of the ministry to grant an FMA or anything else of that nature by order in council, but members may recall that Reed was responsible for the problems in that area.

We must admit that at the time it happened no one thought mercury was a serious pollutant. It was not until the terrible situations in Japan that it came to worldwide attention. So we cannot all sit back and say, "Yes, we knew this was a terrible thing," when in fact we did not. We should also remember that the royal commission that is going to be reporting this summer, according to the Premier's statement earlier today, was set up because of timber limits being granted to Reed by order in council.

I remember the former leader of the New Democratic Party, His Excellency our ambassador to the United Nations, standing in his place over there raising the devil about the granting of these timber limits and although we came in very strongly on the tail of that issue, still the royal commission was established. Frankly, that royal commission has been a terrible disappointment to everybody and a heavy load on the Treasury. It will be interesting to wade through the truckloads of material it delivers to us when the time comes. Surely there will be some useful material there.

The member referred to the situation in the Indian reserve. It is my hope we can reach a settlement so the moneys can be transferred to the

Indian reserve on the basis of the original agreement, in conjunction with any change in the status of Great Lakes. I hope that will happen.

Mr. Harris: In the meantime, the minister is opposed to the FMA.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: No, I am not opposed to it. We are going to have a look at it. I do not think there is anything wrong with that. The Premier's statement is that the orders in council, particularly those involving special rights and privileges and the expenditure of money, are all going to be reviewed. I do not see anything wrong with that. They were entered into after the election, and I think that is our responsibility.

Finally, the member for York Mills led off this debate in her own inimitable style, well informed and incisive. I appreciate her comments. I simply draw to her attention the fact that Ontario did not run out of dollars for two days, as she said. The governor's warrants were for a specific amount of money and we actually had \$800 million left

over, which unfortunately was not enough to see us through Wednesday.

Miss Stephenson: Is that not marvellous? The member knows why.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: My honourable friend wants to complete my speech in the minute remaining to me, but the fact is that tomorrow there are substantial transfer payments of which she is aware. Unless we get interim supply tonight, it will be necessary for us to back up the payments in a way that is more inconvenient and, in my view, substantially undemocratic when this House is in session.

I appreciate the comments made by all honourable members and I now ask them to do something they have already promised to do, that is, unanimously support the motion.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

APPENDIX

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(125 members)

First Session, 33rd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Honourable J. B. Aird, OC, QC

Speaker: Hon. H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)
Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
Ashe, G. L. (Durham West PC)
Baetz, R. C. (Ottawa West PC)
Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
Bennett, C. F. (Ottawa South PC)
Bernier, L. (Kenora PC)
Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)

Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)

Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC) Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)

Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)

Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)

Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services (Oriole L)

Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)

Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education (Renfrew North L)

Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)

Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP) Cordiano, J. (Downsview L)

Cousens, W. D. (York Centre PC) Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)

Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)

Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC) Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)

Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)

Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L) Elgie, R. G. (York East PC)

Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)

Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L) Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)

Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)

Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)

Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines (Cochrane North L)

Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)

Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Scarborough East L) Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP) Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC) Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC)

Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)

Grandmaître, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ottawa East L)

Gregory, M. E. C. (Mississauga East PC)

Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)

Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)

Guindon, L. B. (Cornwall PC)

Haggerty, R. (Erie L)

Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)

Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)

Henderson, D. J. (Humber L)

Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)

Jackson, C. (Burlington South PC)

Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC) Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)

Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)

Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Kingston and the Islands L)

Knight, D. S. (Halton-Burlington L)

Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Wilson Heights L)

Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC) Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)

Leluk, N. G. (York West PC)

Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt NDP)

Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)

Mancini, R. (Essex South L)

Marland, M. (Mississauga South PC)

Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)

McCaffrey, R. B. (Armourdale PC)

McCague, G. R. (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)

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McKessock, R. (Grey L)

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Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

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Ramsay, D. (Timiskaming NDP)

Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP) Reycraft, D. R. (Middlesex L)

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Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)

Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio (Parkdale L)

Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)

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Smith, E. J. (London South L)

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Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
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Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

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Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

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Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services

Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines

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Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food

Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation

Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy

O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology

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Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communication

Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services

Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations

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Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

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Epp, H. A., assistant to the Treasurer (Waterloo North L)

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Henderson, D. J., assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Humber L)

Mancini R. assistant to the Premier (Essey

Mancini, R., assistant to the Premier (Essex South L)

McGuigan, J. F., assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Energy (Kent-Elgin L) McKessock, R., assistant to the Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Grey L)

Miller, Mr. G. I., assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Offer, S., assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mississauga North L)

Poirier, J., assistant to the Minister of the Environment (Prescott-Russell L)

Polsinelli, C., assistant to the Minister of Labour (Yorkview L)

Reycraft, D. R., assistant to the Minister of Education (Middlesex L)

Sargent, E. C., assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Grey-Bruce L)

Ward, C. C., assistant to the Minister of Health (Wentworth North L)

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

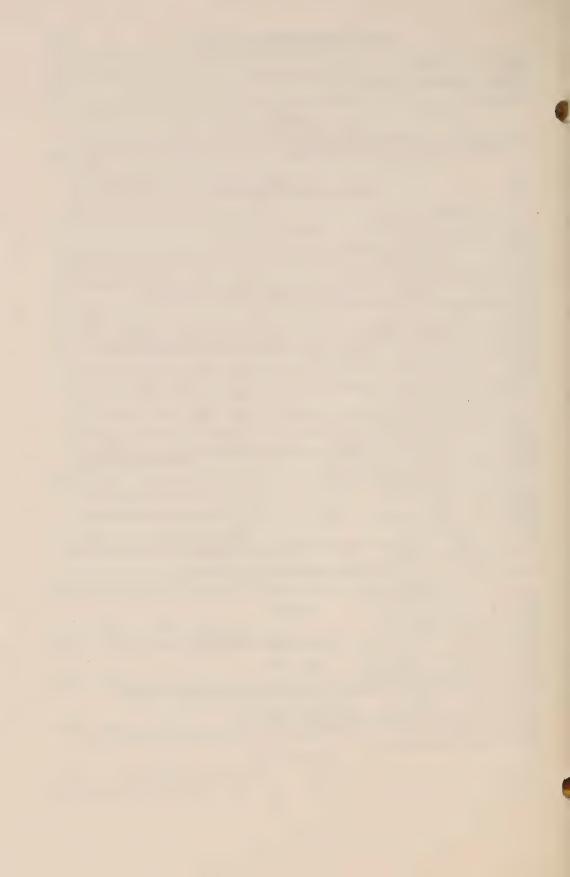
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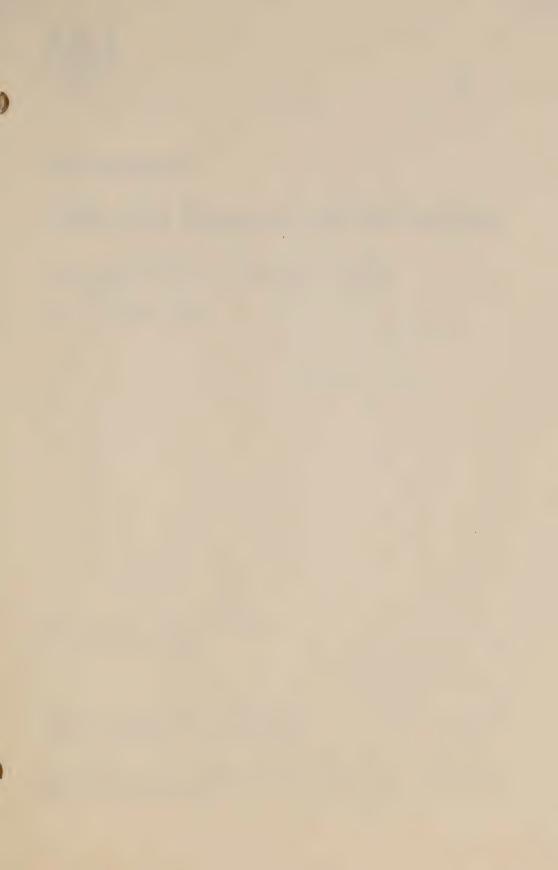
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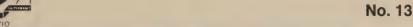












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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 33rd Parliament Thursday, July 4, 1985

Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, July 4, 1985

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: I ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join with me in recognizing and welcoming a delegation of six elected members of the National Assembly of France who are in the Speaker's gallery. They are visiting the Ontario Legislature during their stay in Canada. Our visitors met with several of our members during lunch today. Please welcome our guests.

ANNUAL REPORT, OMBUDSMAN

Mr. Speaker: I also beg to inform the House that I have today laid upon the table the annual report of the Ombudsman of Ontario for 1984-85. For the information of all members, their copies are in their postal boxes.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ONTARIO PLACE ACCIDENT

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I rise today under unfortunate circumstances. We are saddened by the event that happened last night at Ontario Place. During the performance at the Forum by the Toronto Symphony of the 1812 Overture, a cannon, located in a cordoned-off area, fired prematurely and severely injured a member of the Toronto Historical Board's Fort York Guard.

The accident occurred when the young man, Michael Fuhrmann, was loading the cannon in preparation for a round of cannon effects that are a part of the overture. Mr. Fuhrmann lost a hand and was badly burned. He is at the Wellesley Hospital in serious condition.

Proper steps are being taken to establish the cause of this dreadful accident. Investigations are being conducted by the Metropolitan Toronto Police, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Toronto Historical Board, which operates the Fort York Guard. We can be assured that their investigations will be comprehensive.

On behalf of all members of this House and myself, I extend my heartfelt sympathies to the young man and to his family.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the Minister of Labour has two statements.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I trust my colleagues have copies of the first statement at least. I apologize. Copies of the second will be coming as quickly as possible. There have been some fairly late developments.

LAYOFFS AT FIRESTONE

Hon. Mr. Wrye: My first statement is with regard to Firestone Canada Inc. I wish to advise the House that on Tuesday, July 2, I was advised that Firestone Canada plans to lay off indefinitely up to 400 employees at its Hamilton plant, effective November 1, 1985.

This is a matter that causes me great concern and regret. My concerns will be shared, of course, by the employees affected by the cutback, as well as by the Hamilton community; indeed, it has ramifications for the province as a whole.

While I am hopeful that the layoffs will be short in duration, I cannot give any assurance in this regard until I have had an opportunity to explore the company's current situation in Hamilton as well as its long-term plans for that facility and its other plants in Ontario.

Consequently, I have made arrangements to meet with the senior officials of the company, including the chairman of the board, on Monday next. I have also invited to the meeting officials of the United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America, which represents the employees affected by the layoffs, as well as the members of this House from the Hamilton area.

At this meeting, we will be able to explore with the company the reasons for the layoffs, the prospects for recall and the adjustment measures that can be implemented for affected workers. Next week, I will report to the House the conclusions reached at this meeting.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Hon. Mr. Wrye: My second statement had been intended as an answer to a question asked by the member for Windsor-Riverside. Because of some developments I thought it would be appropriate to make a little more lengthy

statement. On June 11 and again on July 1, the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) raised questions concerning occupational health and safety issues at Valenite-Modco Inc. in Windsor. On July 2, I indicated I would be responding more fully today. Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I would like to do so now.

The health and safety conditions in this company have been the subject of considerable attention, both in the Legislature and in the media, over the past number of months. The essential concern has to do with exposure of workers to cobalt dust, as a result of the manufacturing of tungsten carbide products.

Mr. Elgie: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: May we have copies of this statement, please?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I indicated-

Mr. Elgie: I know you did.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: With the indulgence of the former Minister of Labour, I indicated there have been some developments. As of two o'clock, we were just finishing running off copies. I will have them to members almost immediately at the conclusion, if that is agreeable to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreeable?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: They are here now.

As members know from previous exchanges, the company's plants in Windsor have been inspected by ministry officials since 1974. In the period between August 1974 and December 1984, a total of 26 orders was issued to the company during the course of some 28 visits. More recently, as a result of inspections in the early part of 1985, the ministry issued a very comprehensive order under section 20 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, requiring that the company take a number of specific initiatives to ensure that cobalt dust levels are reduced to acceptable levels.

I wish to advise the House that while the company is in substantial compliance with the order, as of noon today, certain segments of a new ventilation system in plant 3 are not fully installed. The ministry inspector is now in the plant to pursue this aspect of the matter. If it is found that the incomplete installation constitutes a violation of clause 5 of the section 20 order, the affected portions of the operation will be closed down immediately and not be permitted to operate until the installation is complete.

When he raised the matter on July 2, the member for Windsor-Riverside asked if the ministry intended to lay charges in connection with any aspect of this matter. As I indicated in

my preliminary response, this issue has been under active review.

The legal issues involved are both important and complex, and, therefore, I have decided the matter should be referred to the Ministry of the Attorney General to ensure that all the relevant issues, legal as well as factual, are fully assessed in order that an informed decision can be made. I can assure all members that the matter will be considered fairly and objectively.

2:10 p.m.

Further, in answer to the member's general question about the stance of this government with respect to vital issues of health and safety, I can assure him, without reservation or qualification, that I regard compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act as a first priority, perhaps the most important area of public administration for which I am responsible. I think it is essential that employers and workers throughout the province understand my commitment and determination in this regard.

Having said that, members will appreciate that it would be improper for me to comment further on the possibility of prosecution at this stage. As I have said, the matter is with the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and I know he is aware of its importance. I will, of course, advise my friend when a decision has been made.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Hon. Mr. Conway: I am pleased and honoured to bring to this House a proposed amendment to the Education Act which will extend full public funding to Roman Catholic secondary school programs.

Today, I intend to outline to this Legislative Assembly how this government will proceed on this question. In particular, I want to remind all honourable members of the reasons committing us to the policy of full funding for the Roman Catholic secondary school system, and why we see a duty to proceed with this policy at this time.

As we all know, the proposal to extend public funds to enable the completion of the Roman Catholic secondary system beyond grade 10 has generated very considerable public debate. It is now time to emphasize the common ground we share.

I remind all members of the rare unanimity of the parties represented in this assembly which converted this historic initiative into today's reality. In proposing the extension of funding as it did, the government of William Davis made it possible for this province to move forward with this reform in relative harmony and without political division. For all of us, the words of that promise were clear. As the former Premier said in this place over one year ago, on June 12, 1984, "While men and women of courage and conviction have been divided on this issue, up to now no Ontario government has felt it was able to discharge its duty" to provide "public funds to a complete Roman Catholic secondary school system." Mr. Davis went on, "I now believe this can be responsibly undertaken and, therefore, it is our obligation to resolve this issue."

These words are more than a statement of intent. They have the power of a decision taken.

Twelve months ago, the implementation of this policy was first begun with the establishment of the Commission for Planning and Implementing Change in the Governance and Administration of Secondary Education in Ontario. The work of this commission is well advanced.

I would like to take just a moment to congratulate William T. Newnham and others on that commission for the very excellent work they have performed on our behalf. As a result of that effort, 38 implementation plans have been recommended by the commission for approval for the 1985-86 school year.

In considering how to proceed with this decision, our government is aware of the equally pressing necessity to accommodate legitimate requests for meaningful and open discussion of the issues and concerns.

I know, as I know all members know, how deeply the concerns in this connection are felt and how deeply felt they have been for a long time. We all understand and want to react responsibly to those concerns.

There are two obligations the government must consider equally. First, there is the need to ensure full discussion, without an arbitrary deadline; second, there is the need to proceed with the extension of funding immediately because there are approximately 6,300 student transfers already registered in grades 9, 10 and 11 for the fall of 1985 and there are almost 300 teachers who are affected by this policy and by the related student transfers.

Since coming to office eight days ago, we have structured a legislative proposal which permits the logical completion of high school education for Roman Catholic students. It is a comprehensive framework for the further evolution of the dual system of publicly funded education in Ontario.

Reform is not always easy, but change has its own dynamic, and as we have seen over the past

year, the Ontario education system can adjust to positive reform. In pursuing excellence in education, the separate and public school systems each has a distinct mission. Together, they must respond to public expectations about programs, access, standards and quality. Individually, they must nurture a particular set of constitutionally protected rights. Together, they provide Ontarians with a comprehensive educational system guaranteeing equality of opportunity for all our children.

With this in mind, there are six principles that provide the basis for the proposals embodied in this bill.

The first principle is the need to protect the viability of the public secondary school system. Several provisions of the bill address this principle. Of particular importance are the expanded role and responsibilities of the planning and implementation commission. Not only will this body continue to examine carefully, year by year, the developing plans of separate school boards and their impact on the public system, but the commission will also be empowered to bring about resolution of disputes with respect to those plans.

Second, the spirit and the letter of the constitutional guarantees must be made explicit in our provincial legislation for education. Since there are those who believe the constitutional guarantees for Roman Catholic secondary education in this province are ambiguous, this bill will clarify the matter once and for all.

Third, in implementing this policy, the interests of students in all our schools must be first and foremost in our minds. A major provision of the bill deals with student access. The Roman Catholic community has already agreed that a positive position on this matter of access is both necessary and possible.

With this legislation, a student may choose to have access to either the public or the Roman Catholic secondary schools, subject only to the limitation of space being available. There are situations in which it will be necessary for a non-Roman Catholic student to attend a Roman Catholic secondary school because of availability of program, distance or mental or physical handicap. Under these conditions, an exemption from religious education must be granted by the board if requested. The details for these conditions will be defined during the consultation period ahead.

The fourth principle in this legislation is that there is to be no unemployment as a direct result of the policy regarding full funding. No teacher or other employee will lose his job as a result of this policy of full funding.

There are several provisions in this legislation covering different aspects of this issue that the government wishes to bring forward for consideration. These should now be scrutinized carefully by all concerned. These provisions will make up the guarantee of employment that the government will provide over the next 10 years. In this context, the role of the planning and implementation commission will continue to be central.

The fifth principle is that the distinctive mission of the Roman Catholic separate school system must be maintained. The application of this principle has already been discussed with respect to accessibility. The government sees the completion of funding as a major contribution to preserving the unique mission of the Roman Catholic secondary schools.

Finally, adequate provision must be made to ensure an orderly and cost-effective transition. On this point, I wish to reaffirm that effective use of available facilities is essential. As warranted, the public boards will be provided with additional provincial grants to offset specific costs related to the transfer of students.

2:20 p.m.

Major changes in public policy are never achieved without discussion and accommodation, and rarely without controversy. Despite our best efforts, I recognize that not all people may agree to this proposed initiative. Nevertheless, our duty to proceed is clear. Therefore, this government is prepared to make procedural commitments leading to the resolution of all matters related to the implementation of full funding. It is the intention of the government to proceed immediately on each of these commitments.

I would therefore like to announce the following:

First, this bill will be sent to a committee for debate immediately after second reading. The government will impose no arbitrary deadline to limit that debate.

Second, the bill will be referred immediately to the Ontario Court of Appeal, pursuant to the Constitutional Questions Act, so a ruling can be made as to the constitutional validity of the bill prior to its enactment and proclamation. While we believe this legislation is constitutional and appropriate, we acknowledge that some others do not share this opinion.

Third, this bill will not be tabled for third reading until the Ontario Court of Appeal has

given its decision and until a full and complete committee debate has been concluded.

In addition, and to honour the commitments made in this House more than 380 days ago, I am announcing today that this government will proceed by way of amending the general legislative grant regulation to extend funds to eligible Roman Catholic school boards ready to proceed this fall. I want to make it very clear, however, that this is an interim measure to ensure that the education of approximately 6,300 students is not jeopardized while the legislative process moves forward.

Our concern here must be to protect students and teachers who have acted in good faith on the basis of a three-party commitment made in this House more than 380 days ago. As members of this assembly, we too must proceed in good faith. As we debate the issues addressed by this bill, I would not wish to impose any deadline. This funding arrangement, which I reiterate is an interim arrangement to deal only with the special circumstances of the situation we face for September 1985, allows public debate to proceed without penalizing thousands of young people.

I am advised by my colleague the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) that a decision on the constitutionality of the bill may be available later this year. It is unfortunate that some reference to the court could not have been made sooner.

Given the three-party commitment this House has made to Roman Catholic students, parents, trustees and boards, I trust the people of Ontario will see the necessity of this approach. It will enable the government to fulfil its commitment to make information public; to fulfil its commitment to an open and complete debate of the legislation in this House, in committee and across this province; to determine, before final passage, that the proposed legislation is constitutionally valid, and to keep the promise made more than 380 days ago to thousands of young people who are now standing by, ready to proceed with their education in Roman Catholic secondary schools this fall.

These, then, are our objectives. I want to make it clear that our resolve to meet them is firm. Reasonable and effective arrangements already have been made in communities all across this province. I am persuaded once again that the citizens of Ontario are an exemplary and generous people. They are now looking to us to resolve these outstanding and historic questions in an exemplary and responsible fashion.

I do not profess to know a great deal about the history of a lot of public policy, but this is an issue about which I do have some keen and personal appreciation. I am reminded, in this very brief aside for my friend the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), of all the history that has brought us to this very important day in the life of this Legislature.

At this moment in our history, therefore, it seems appropriate to recall the words of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who said, "So long as I have a seat in this House, so long as I occupy the position I do now, whenever it shall become my duty to take a stand on any question whatever, that stand I will take, not from the point of view of Roman Catholicism, not from the point of view of Protestantism, but from the point of view which can appeal to the consciences of all people irrespective of their particular faith...by all people who love justice, freedom and toleration."

There is a marvellous challenge in those words of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I am confident that all of us will work together to meet that challenge.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Hon. Mr. Scott: May I begin with a note that is not in my prepared statement—

Mr. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I do not have a copy of the statement.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am sorry. I understood it had been provided.

This statement is made with considerable emotion. You will perhaps be interested to know, Mr. Speaker, that my great-grandfather introduced the Education Act of 1864, upon which the rights of Roman Catholics in this province to separate education have ever since depended. For me, it is an emotional and moving moment to be able to participate in this.

My statement follows upon that of my colleague the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway), who has announced today the government's intention to introduce an amendment to the Education Act to provide for the full funding of separate secondary schools.

Members will recall that on Tuesday, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) said the government will follow three principles in implementing full funding of separate secondary schools: (1) full and open public hearings; (2) a reference to the courts to confirm the legislation's constitutionality, and (3) proceeding with funding this September to meet former Premier Davis's commitment to the children, parents and school boards that have already made plans respecting schooling this fall.

The bill referred to by the Minister of Education puts into legislative form the policy of this government.

2:30 p.m.

To meet our second commitment and to affirm this government's belief that the draft legislation is constitutional and meets the standards of the charter, I am pleased to announce that we have referred directly to the Ontario Court of Appeal the following question: Is Bill 30, An Act to amend the Education Act, inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution of Canada, including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and if so, in what particular or particulars and in what respect?

This reference will thus put before the Court of Appeal both the constitutional question and the proposed legislation which will be under consideration by this Legislature. We believe this process will meet the often-expressed concern of the courts about deciding complex constitutional questions without the benefit of the detailed framework which is provided by the bill.

We are also mindful of the fact that some citizens and groups have expressed their desire to debate the constitutionality of this legislation before the courts. A court application initiated by private parties would necessarily commence in a trial court and, in the ordinary course, would reach the Court of Appeal only after lengthy and potentially protracted proceedings. Consequently, there would be a lengthy period of uncertainty pending a final and authoritative ruling on the constitutional aspects of the legislation.

As a result of this reference, all those parties who hold a contrary view about the constitutionality of the legislation will have, in accordance with the rules of court, the opportunity to make a full and exhaustive presentation to the court.

It is not the government's present intention to call the bill for third reading until the Court of Appeal has made its decision. It is anticipated that the Court of Appeal will hear this case before the end of September. This is the earliest possible time for a full and complete hearing, taking into consideration the court's schedule and the need to give interested individuals and groups time to prepare their full written and oral submissions to the court.

For all of these reasons, we thought it desirable and prudent to facilitate the earliest possible resolution of any constitutional issues raised by the draft legislation, and to do so on the basis of the proposed enactment.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: I have just been advised that we have a guest in the Speaker's gallery, a member of the British Columbia Legislature, Mr. Emery Barnes. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Barnes.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. F. S. Miller: I have a question for the Minister of Education, who I hope can help me understand his statement better.

Is it the intention of the Minister of Education to ensure that every secondary student in Ontario will have access to the publicly funded school system of his or her choice?

Hon. Mr. Conway: It is the intention of this government and its legislation to provide for parallel access for both kinds of students—if I may use that phrase—to both systems. The only limitation is that such access is to be provided where space is available.

Mr. F. S. Miller: That is a very important qualification. I point out that one system requires access for every student who applies, regardless of availability of space. I thus will have to extend my question; I need clarification on that.

Is it also the minister's intention to allow any non-Catholic student who has chosen to go to a Catholic school to opt out of religious instruction and other religion-based parts of the curriculum?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The legislation that will be before the House in a very few moments says there is an entitlement for a non-Catholic to attend a Catholic secondary school, the only limitation being the availability of space. If a non-Catholic is in a Catholic secondary school for purposes of program, distance or some kind of exceptionality, there must be granted, upon application, an exemption from the religious or confessional portions of education. Where a non-Catholic student generally chooses to be in a Roman Catholic secondary school, that person can apply for an exemption and the board may wish to give it.

Mr. Rae: My supplementary has to do with a statement the minister made today with respect to some of the basic objectives of the government's policy. I believe the first one had to do with maintaining the viability of the public school system.

On reflection, does the minister not think it would have been wise for the government to have taken very particular steps, in real money terms,

to assure the public school system that the government is determined to maintain viability by increasing the share of grants to education that come from the provincial government as opposed to local government? The minister will know that under previous regimes these grants have fallen well below the 50 per cent mark and are causing some real financial problems in a great many assessment-poor parts of this province.

In view of the government's commitment, does the minister not think it would help the atmosphere of this debate significantly if there were a far clearer indication of the government's willingness to enrich, protect and maintain the financial and scholastic viability of the public school system?

Hon. Mr. Conway: As the member for Renfrew North, I want to assure the leader of the New Democratic Party that I know well whereof he speaks in regard to the difficulties of many of our boards in this connection. It will be the intention of this government to provide special funding to public boards of education to help buffer the costs associated with the completion of funding in the separate secondary system. The exact extent of that funding will have to await developments over the coming years.

Mr. Timbrell: Relating to the question of access, the minister quoted Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and a very fine quote it was. He might well have cited Sir John A. Macdonald when he said, "Never do things by halves that can be done by quarters." When I look at the opening paragraph of the minister's press release and compare that to what he is saying here today about access, there are very real problems.

Will the minister assure us that no student will be denied access if he or she chooses to attend a Roman Catholic secondary school in this province for any reason whatsoever, be it space or desire not to take religious instruction or the sacraments?

Hon. Mr. Conway: It is this government's view that there must be a liberal and generous accessibility posture on the part of both boards of education. We have chosen to move in the direction of limiting on the basis of available space. That is the decision we have made. I must say as well, it is important to take into account that in some situations today that is already happening.

2:40 p.m.

AUTOMOBILE IMPORTS

Mr. F. S. Miller: I have a question for the Premier. In view of the importance of the

automobile industry to Ontario and the rather sad agreement entered into yesterday, increasing Japanese imports into Canada this year by about 28,000 vehicles, will the Premier do what he said he would during the election campaign? Will he protect workers' jobs in this province? What has he done to date?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I will not be partisan. The Leader of the Opposition raises a concern that is a very real one in my view, and I am glad we share it.

It was revealed yesterday that Mr. Stevens, the federal minister, has arranged a new quota agreement that would allow 17,000 to 20,000 new Japanese vehicles into Canada this year. In our judgement, that would remove, or prevent from being created, at least 1,300 jobs, essentially in Ontario.

I immediately moved with dispatch. Discussions have already gone on. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. O'Neil) will be meeting with Mr. Stevens in the near future to express our great concern about this matter. I cannot give the specific time and place

of that meeting.

What concerns me about this agreement more than anything is there was no linkage or understanding with respect to Canadian content and/or investment in Canada. I am sure the honourable leader will be aware that the United States has been far more effective than Canada in obtaining offsetting investments in that country from Japanese manufacturers. We have not been doing that very successfully.

I know he had some strong meetings with the Prime Minister, and presumably with Mr. Stevens, putting forward his point of view, and presumably the results of those discussions were put into this agreement today. I think the Prime Minister is very much aware of my feelings on this matter. It is my intention to meet the Prime Minister in the near future to put forward again the strong voice of Ontario on this matter.

Mr. F. S. Miller: That really does not sound as cocky, forceful or positive as the Premier sounded during the election campaign, and let me assure him I listened to him carefully.

Three of our ministers went to Ottawa and, with the United Auto Workers, the parts manufacturers and the manufacturers of automobiles, fought for jobs and investments in Ontario. Does the Premier support the UAW/automobile-industry task force that required 80 per cent content?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The answer is clearly yes, and we have done so for a matter of time.

While the honourable member was at those meetings, what did he accomplish? Perhaps he would tell me.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Perhaps if the former Premier of this province had introduced an all-party resolution and fought hard for Ontario jobs, we would have them now and would not have this fight.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Why do you not go to the other side?

Mr. Hennessy: Go to the other side.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: These guys have shown no interest in the auto industry; so they should quiet down

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the honourable member have a supplementary?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Since we now seem to have all three parties on side on this issue, will the Premier consider, in co-operation with the two opposition parties, drafting an all-party resolution demanding content legislation at the federal level in line with the task force? Since it is absolutely essential, can we do that before the House adjourns for the summer recess?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I certainly share the sentiments of the honourable member's suggestion because I am very much in favour of that. I presume the Conservative Party would agree as well.

That having been said, I am not sure it can be arranged inside the current legislative schedule. It would have to go through the House leaders, but I have no problem with it at all.

This is also a matter that could be dealt with in some depth by the committee of this House that will be struck on economic affairs. These industries are critical to the economic and industrial health of this province. Now that we are all resolved to fight together for them, let us find common ground and work together to protect our jobs and industry.

Mr. Bennett: When our party had the opportunity, three ministers went with the UAW to Ottawa to present the case on behalf of Ontario. For three years we got some extreme advantages for this province in the reduction of imports to Ontario and Canada from Japan.

Is the Premier prepared to bring the four principal automobile manufacturers in this province, along with the UAW, to Ottawa, to discuss not the percentage of imports to this country but a positive number? Indeed, if we do not get to that position, if we allow ourselves to be traded off with the Japanese, then when our market goes

up, they want the percentage— automobile manufacturers in this province, along with the UAW, to Ottawa, to discuss not the percentage of imports to this country but a positive number? Indeed, if we do not get to that position, if we allow ourselves to be traded off with the Japanese, then when our market goes up, they want the percentage—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Bennett: —and when it goes down, they want to retain the number of units they had imported last year. If the Premier is about to call together the four automobile manufacturers and the UAW and present a strong case on behalf of Ontario, I ask him to lock in a particular number of Japanese imports and not do it by percentage.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The honourable member raises a very valid point. As he knows, the previous agreement was 170,000 cars or 18 per cent. It came down to about 16 per cent because it hit the quota figure of 170,000 vehicles. He does point out in his question the difficulties of the arrangements that were made in the past.

I find it somewhat ironic that this deposed government is extolling the virtues of the former Liberal government in Ottawa, which dealt so forcefully with these issues. But I am glad to see it join issue with me against that government in Ottawa, to put forward in a very forceful way the concerns of Ontario. We will do that together. I thank my friends for their valuable assistance.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Premier relating to the statement made today by the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway) and relating to the supplementary I asked the minister.

The Premier will know the share of funding for public education from the province is now well below 50 per cent. He will know it has now fallen to 46 per cent. He will also know, and we all know from the debate we have all experienced across the province in the last year, that one of the real concerns of people who support the public school system and whose children go to the public school system is not that they are opposed in any way to what is happening with the separate schools, but with the viability of maintaining a financially secure and healthy public school system.

Does the Premier think it would be wise, in terms of the debate we are now going to have in a very active way this summer in a committee, for the government, parallel to the work that is going on in the committee, to outline very clearly its plans regarding a timetable to see that we get the share of moneys going to the public school system from the province up towards that 60 per cent target which he himself has embraced on other occasions and which, it seems to me, is a good target to be set? It was acceptable to George Drew—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Mr. Rae: –in 1943 and it ought to be good enough for Ontario in 1985.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The concerns the honourable leader has expressed are concerns I have expressed on many occasions myself and I agree with those concerns. One of the reasons we have had so much, shall we say, dissension or controversy about the entire separate school issue was that there was a sense there was some diminution of our commitment to public education. Indeed, that is not the case and that message must go forward from this House very strongly.

With respect to his specific suggestion, he is aware, I am sure, that Ian Macdonald is heading another commission investigating the entire financing matter of our educational system. Unfortunately, as much as I would like to proceed with those kinds of discussions now, it would be premature in the absence of his report. My suggestion to the honourable leader would be to wait until we have the Macdonald report and then proceed with those discussions which are central to quality education of both systems.

Mr. Rae: I hope the Premier realizes he is now in a position actually to do many of the things he promised he would do during the election campaign. He set out two targets which were set out by many other people. I would just stress to the Premier that it is not going to be good enough for a great many parents to say there was some commission set up by Bill Davis over a year ago which is somehow going to resolve the problem. What is clear, it seems to me, is there has to be a commitment from the government of Ontario that it is going to increase its share. Regardless of what Mr. Macdonald says, the government must be prepared to increase its share.

My question can be answered by a yes or a no. Is the Premier prepared to commit Ontario to increasing its share in order to ensure that we do indeed have a really good, first-class public education system in Ontario?

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: One never knows who one's friends are in this business, does one?

As my colleague pointed out some time ago, there will be special buffering grants going forward on the basis of need. I am very mindful we are now in a position of responsibility and I take it very seriously. I am mindful he is not in a position of responsibility; I know he takes that seriously as well. We will be sensitive to all of these matters. I believe it is premature to move on these things at this time. However, as the minister said, he will be moving, and I think the members will be satisfied that a firm commitment to quality public education will be constantly there from this government.

Miss Stephenson: I have a supplementary question for the Premier, if I may. I would not only ask the Premier to accept the commitment made by the former government to increase the amount of money presented to the public school boards, notwithstanding buffering financing, which has been a part of the school financing program now for many years in this province, but to increase the commitment of funds made available to the public school boards by the government before the Macdonald commission reported. That was a significant portion of the former government's speech from the throne.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: This former minister keeps asking me to honour her deathbed repentance, all of the things she has come out with in the last little while. It is hard for me to stand in front of this House and say I will automatically support her golf clubs and that kind of thing.

I am prepared to take a sympathetic view of every constructive and good idea this minister has had in her entire political life, and those of any of her colleagues as well in that regard. However, I think the approach the present minister has taken in this matter is a sensitive one. We in this party fought for quality education and will continue to do so.

Mr. Rae: I will say to the Premier that-

Mr. Speaker: I would prefer it if you would ask him.

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: These guys are all excited because they have managed to get here without their chauffeurs today.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I recognize the member to ask a supplementary.

Mr. Rae: I was just on my way there. It is always the journey that is more interesting than the arrival.

The Premier now has a chance to do more than simply buffer. He has a chance to give a very real, practical commitment to the public school

system. If the Premier wants to look at a very effective way to make sure the debate that takes place in this province is one of generosity, a word that was used many times by the Minister of Education in his statement today, there are practical ways for the government of Ontario to be effectively generous at this time as well, to show that, as opposed to the parsimonious policies of the Tory party which have reduced the level of funding to 46 per cent, it is now possible to increase it.

Will the Premier now commit himself to a timetable that will show in practical ways that he is going to increase the share of provincial funding to education in this province?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I would remind the honourable leader of the third party we have now been ensconced on this side of the House for eight days. He has seen tough, courageous decisions made in that time. We have not been running away from issues. We have been facing them directly.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I am very proud of the leadership that has been provided by my colleagues, particularly here today. The members opposite hang shamefaced without the guts to deal with this issue. After walking away, they have lost their credibility to criticize, let alone to make judgements on it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the Premier please answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: History will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that people in my position are very easily provoked.

That being said, I am not in a position to give the honourable leader a precise timetable to match his request today, but it is certainly something we are sensitive about and we will be proceeding in the not-too-distant future.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS

Mr. Reville: My question is of the Minister of Revenue. The minister will be aware of a recent ruling by the Ontario Municipal Board which concludes that provincial tax assessors have unfairly reassessed properties in Toronto by confusing improvements and repairs and by using reassessment to bring in market-value assessment by the back door. Will the minister give us his assurance that the government will not appeal the decision of the OMB and that he will advise his field offices that assessors should abide by the decision?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I had the decision of the Ontario Municipal Board placed in my hand this morning. The judgement was written by Mr. R. D. M. Owen and concurred in by Mr. Morley A. Rosenberg. In many respects, it is a watershed decision and something of tremendous importance.

I can recall, as a critic of the assessment processes in this province, particularly since they were centralized at the provincial level, bringing to my predecessor's attention that improvements in a property should not be assessed at a level at which they would discourage home owners from improving their homes. I feel that way at present.

It seems to me this decision is going to have widespread ramifications for assessment, not only in the Metro area but across the province. I am going to have to consult the experts in the ministry who placed this in my hand this morning—I read it in the Toronto Star yesterday and the Globe and Mail this morning—and also my colleagues. I can assure members that we on this side have promised and will undertake a thorough review of the whole assessment process.

One of the matters pertaining to metropolitan assessment that has been raised previously and is closely associated with this is the study for the Metro area of the impact of provincial policies. While it is not directly in response to the question, I want to inform the member that those studies are now considered public documents and are available to anybody who wants to look at them. I am also informed that my ministry has until July 11 to make a decision to appeal in this connection. When the decision is made, I will be very proud to announce it to this House.

Mr. Reville: Sometimes one does know where one's friends are, but I am not too pleased that the minister is not yet ready to call a ceasefire in the war that is being waged against property taxpayers in the city. I wonder whether he will give the House his assurance that he will at least write to all home owners who have been reassessed, explaining that their taxes may be too high because of flaws in the reassessment method and that their taxes could be reduced if they appeal.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I cannot give that assurance.

3 p.m.

Mr. Lupusella: Can the minister please give us an assurance that the assessments made since 1981 will be rolled back and covered retroactive-

ly by the new approach based on the decision of the Ontario Municipal Board?

Hon. Mr. Nixon: It is plain that if the ruling of the municipal board stands very far-reaching adjustments will be required. Part of the undertaking I have already given the honourable member's colleague is to consider our position having to do with appeal.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Timbrell: I have a question of the Minister of Education. I have not had very long to peruse the material laid before us today, but I find in it rather extensive sections dealing with the resolution of disputes between boards of education with respect to teachers. I have not been able to find anything that deals with the resolution of disputes that affect the students and/or their parents.

Could the minister tell me what plans he has to ensure that, as in the case of Mr. Pervin and his daughter in Windsor, there will be an effective means for the resolution of that kind of dispute and others affecting parents and students.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I thank the member for a very good question. He raises the justifiable concern we saw in the Windsor situation some days ago; that situation has been resolved.

The bill contemplates a number of things in this connection. First, in regard to the decision about space availability, I know there will be some concern regarding access to Roman Catholic secondary schools, but that decision is appealable from the chief executive officer of the involved separate school board to the Commission for Planning and Implementing Change in the Governance and Administration of Secondary Education in Ontario.

Let us look at the Windsor case, because it is perhaps a useful one. It seems quite clear to me that if a non-Catholic is in a Roman Catholic secondary school for purposes of program, as the situation in Windsor involved, under the provisions of this bill there is an exemption guaranteed upon application.

Mr. Timbrell: I would like to return to the question of space availability. Do I take it from the minister's answer there is nothing in the legislation that would allow a parent to appeal to some higher authority in those instances where the local Roman Catholic school or the local school board says there is no space? If so, will the minister reconsider and withdraw that position so there will be, as his press release says, free access

to Roman Catholic schools for all students in the province?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to make myself very clear: there is access, with the limitation of space availability; and that determination is appealable from the receiving separate board to the planning and implementation commission. Thus, as a non-Catholic, one is not going to be subject only to the adjudication of the receiving separate school board.

One of the considerations in the bill is the understanding that the Roman Catholic system must be expanded in a way that does not, in the final analysis, undermine the constitutional guarantees that created it in the first place.

Mr. Allen: The operable question is that of availability of space in separate systems. One must bear in mind that last fall the Metropolitan Separate School Board had to rule out access due to lack of space and the fact it had 16,000 students in portables. Given this, what does the minister propose to do to remedy those fundamental space problems in the system which will impede access and therefore make access difficult for students?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The policy of the government is certainly going to be to bring the two sides together. We hope to do this first in the case of Metropolitan Toronto upon the settlement of the court case.

The member knows we have a difficulty in Metropolitan Toronto outside the city of Toronto where public boards are not in any official dialogue with separate school boards of education. It is going to be the policy of this government to emphasize to the greatest degree possible the use of existing space. This year there will be, of course, the requirement to fund additional portables. That we will be doing.

I can only say to the honourable member that we will not fully know the space requirements until we see the plans the separate school boards will be submitting later this year. I want to make it very clear that the policy of this government in regard to space—and to be fair, it was the policy of the previous government—is that we must to the greatest extent possible utilize existing facilities. We will try to do that by all reasonable means.

DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES

Mr. Martel: I have a new question of the Minister of Labour. Is the Minister of Labour aware of a practice by Falconbridge Ltd. that when a worker who has been rated a disability pension, of let us say 10 or 12 per cent, is given a

return-to-work slip by his or her doctor, the company now takes the position that because the worker has a disability pension he is not to be taken back to his or her regular duty, thus forcing the worker out on the street? Will the minister investigate this practice and, if it is factual, will he introduce legislation to prevent companies from dismissing people in this fashion?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I must admit to the honourable member that I was not aware of the practice he alleges. I would undertake to investigate this allegation immediately and would like to get back to the member on the issue.

Mr. Laughren: While the Minister of Labour is investigating the problem to which my colleague the member for Sudbury East refers, would he also investigate a another problem with the same company? Falconbridge has a policy whereby if a worker is seriously injured and is off work for 52 weeks or more because of that job-related injury, the company then dismisses that employee. It is clearly a case of double jeopardy. Will the minister either change the legislation or issue an order to Falconbridge to cease and desist this discriminatory policy?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am always pleased to look into the problems raised by the member for Nickel Belt. I would remind him, since he and I shared a legislative committee on workers' compensation matters and on reforms for some extensive period of time, that the amendments that were brought forward last winter in Bill 101 did move matters forward in terms of possible violations of the Human Rights Code. I would suggest to both of my honourable friends that the Human Rights Code may catch one or both of these matters.

I would say also to the member for Nickel Belt, and I am sure he will remember well, that the issue of the limited or unlimited right of injured workers to return to employment was addressed by the standing committee on resources development and endorsed by all three parties. That matter did not come forward in the legislative amendments contained in Bill 101 because at that time it was felt they were intrinsically tied to a new form of permanent disability, changing from the clinical rating system. That is not a view I share; however, I think we should take a look at that within the phase 2 inquiry, which is now ongoing.

Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, as you know, the whole issue of reform of the Workers' Compensation Act was broken into two phases. One of the very vital issues from my point of view is the

right of a worker to return to employment following an injury or following some disability. I had given an undertaking, which I expect the Minister of Labour would share with me, to proceed in an expeditious way with phase 2 of reform. Will the minister give that commitment today?

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I only say to my friend that when we were in the standing committee on resources development we did not understand that the government of the day had decided to do the reform in two phases. That is what this minister faces.

I do not believe it was necessary to delay the implementation of legislation giving workers a right to return to work; however, that is where the matter stands. It is part of an overall phase 2 review that is now ongoing, particularly with the major matters. I can indicate to the honourable member that I have already instructed my officials to get on with the job. I expect to meet with Professor Paul Weiler later this month.

SPILLS BILL

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The members will recall that the member for Essex North (Mr. Hayes) asked me a question the other day about driver training related to the safe handling of dangerous goods legislation. I am able to respond to that question today.

Dangerous goods training was inserted into the dangerous goods regulations at the request of industry. Therefore, it is required that everyone who handles, offers for transport or transports dangerous goods must be trained to the satisfaction of his employer in compliance with section 9.2 of the federal regulations.

Specifically, driver training for dangerous goods has been ongoing for the past several months and courses are available through the Ontario Trucking Association. More than 100 workshops have been held throughout the province at many community colleges, including Humber and Lambton, private sector driver training schools and at least four private sector consulting firms in the province.

Many companies are sending representatives to these courses, who, in turn, come back to train the rest of the company drivers. Further, everyone who is involved with dangerous goods must be issued a certificate of training by his employer or work under the supervision of a trained person in compliance with section 9.4.

Drivers, since they generally work alone, must carry their own certificates. Our own highway

enforcement staff, as part of routine inspection procedures, will be asking for this certificate from drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods. These compliance officers are located throughout the province in our driver and vehicle districts, truck inspection stations and/or mobile patrols. To my knowledge, this aspect of the package of the new dangerous goods legislation regulations is being well received by industry. Early indications show the compliance rate is quite high.

Responsibility for fire and police departments in this province rests with my colleague the Solicitor General (Mr. Keyes). Questions about the specifics of the training received at the local level or at provincial colleges can be addressed to my colleague.

I understand that for many years local fire and police departments have had a two-pronged approach to training for jobs including chemical emergencies. First, the training is conducted by the local departments in each municipality. Second, local departments also utilize provincial fire and police colleges in Metropolitan Toronto, the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst, the Ontario Police College in Aylmer and the Ontario Provincial Police Academy in Brampton.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Would an answer of that length not be better handled through a ministerial statement?

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the member's comment. I was listening very carefully and I remember on a previous occasion advising a minister that, if it was a lengthy and quite detailed answer to a question, he should make a statement. I would ask the minister to complete it and then I will add time to question period.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that you were listening. Given the importance of the question, I felt the member opposite deserved a complete and full answer. I am nearly finished.

There has been considerable interaction between my staff and the fire and police training officials regarding dangerous goods. I remind the member that the placarding, labelling and documentation required in the dangerous goods regulations were designed to allow emergency response personnel to find out more quickly what commodities are involved in an emergency. This in turn allows them to respond more appropriately to the emergency. Furthermore, I understand the fire and police communities, as well as industry, had considerable input into the development of these regulations. Thus, the dangerous goods legislation and regulations can appropri-

ately be said to have been designed to improve public safety.

Mr. Speaker: Under the circumstances I just mentioned, I will add four minutes to the question period.

Mr. Hayes: One of the main concerns dealing with the transportation of dangerous goods is that there are a lot of dangerous goods that are transported not only through our province, but also through a lot of our communities and other provinces.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Hayes: Is the minister going to tighten the laws or put in some specific rules on labelling hazardous material that is being transported so everyone, including the driver, will know exactly what that driver is hauling?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I think the safety of the community and the driver is paramount. On behalf of this ministry, I can assure the member opposite that we will be working very closely with the Solicitor General, who has responsibility for emergency measures, to ensure that every precaution is taken.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Timbrell: I wish to return to the question of the protection of the rights of students, their parents and teachers.

In the statement made today, the indication was given by the Minister of Education that should, which would seem likely, the legislation that he will introduce today not have been proclaimed by the start of the next academic school year, then the government will pass financial regulations to transfer funds to the affected Roman Catholic school boards before this decision.

Can the minister explain to me, given that he proposes to transfer funds to boards that do not exist and which are created by this legislation, and given that there are no other means available, how he will protect the rights of the students, the teachers and the parents in the absence of this legislation?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The honourable member will be happy to know that, in almost all of these particulars, those implementation plans that have been approved meet these conditions. In other words, no plan has been approved by the Commission for Planning and Implementing Change in the Governance and Administration of Secondary Education in Ontario for September 1, 1985, that does not meet the rigorous

standards that have been set out in this legis-

Mr. Timbrell: Will the minister commit today that he and the executive council will resolve all disputes that arise in the period while the financial regulations are in place and before the legislation is enacted in order to render people harmless from any discriminatory practices of any kind?

Will he also agree that it would be far better to shortcut the whole process, cut out all these tribunals and make cabinet responsible for those decisions anyway?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Of course, cabinet does have responsibility, which is clearly set out in the bill. I want to say to the member, whose sensitivity to these matters I appreciate, that the people of this province have an understanding of how these matters can and will be resolved.

For example, the Windsor situation the member mentioned, which was very regrettable, has been resolved.

Mr. Timbrell: Why has the board said no?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I expect the planning and implementation commission, which has a mandate and has had a mandate since almost a year ago, will supervise, in the necessary ways, these and related questions, accepting, as I do, that the people of Ontario who are charged with the responsibility of managing these school systems are going to behave as they generally, if not always, do-with sensitivity and generosity.

3:20 p.m.

LAYOFFS AT FIRESTONE

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Labour with regard to a statement concerning the Firestone Canada layoffs. I am sure the minister will be aware that the 400 jobs lost are going to be largely those of young workers starting families and buying houses, who have up to five to six years' seniority. He will also be aware that corporate rationalization at Firestone was aided by \$15.2 million of taxpayers' money.

Given these considerations, is the minister prepared to insist that there is assistance for early retirement for older workers in that plant so we can endeavour to save the jobs of some of these younger workers who will otherwise be out of work as of November 1?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am aware that the president of the union involved has indicated that in his opinion 180 jobs could be saved among that younger group if the early-retirement provisions

were to take hold. All I can tell the member is that, as of this afternoon, we are intensively reviewing that matter. I expect it will be a major part of the discussions we will have next Monday morning.

Mr. Mackenzie: The minister will be well aware that this party has been raising the question of provision for early retirement in a layoff fund that would assist us in the rash of plant closures we have had across Ontario. Given this situation, is the minister prepared to take a look at some government action that would give us the mechanism necessary to provide for bridging and early retirement for older workers in plant layoffs or closures so we can open up jobs for younger workers?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I am aware of the position the member and his party have taken over some time. On this side we have been concerned for a long time about the issue of plant closures. Using this most recent closure as an example, the Ministry of Labour was informed just a few minutes before the partial closure was actually announced that some 400 workers would be laid off. It seems to us that ought to be a matter of great concern. I am sure the member shares the concern and distress we all have at the fact that these announcements are made with so little time to react.

We will be looking at all aspects of plant closures in the months to come. Clearly it is a matter-

Mr. Warner: Do more than look. Let us have some action over there. Show some leadership.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I say to my friend the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere-

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the honourable members do not want to hear the answer, I will ask for a new question.

FARMERS' LIABILITY

Mr. Stevenson: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. As I am sure the minister is aware, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture was one of the groups that met yesterday with his cabinet colleague the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). They expressed their concerns about the absolute-liability position of farmers bringing home their chemicals from the agricultural supplier if they were involved in an accident through no fault of their own.

As Minister of Agriculture and Food, what representations has the minister made to the Minister of the Environment to alleviate the concerns of the OFA and protect farmers from absolute liability?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Very briefly, in response to the member's question, I want to advise him that I have been discussing the matter with the Minister of the Environment and he is pursuing the concerns that have been expressed by the OFA.

Mr. Stevenson: I am interested in knowing whether the minister supports the OFA's position. They expressed their concerns about the absolute-liability position of farmers involved in an accident while hauling manure down a public roadway.

Is the minister planning government assistance to cover the massive premiums that are going to be required for the insurance, for example, to clean up and restore a stream and a number of ponds in the midst of a posh rural estate development, or is he going to force the farmers to get the cost of those premiums from the marketplace?

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I just want to tell the minister-

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The former minister. Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: I never discredit anyone. I just want to tell the member I share his concerns. As a matter of interest, I will be meeting with the chairman of the OFA. I believe we have a meeting tomorrow. I also want to assure the member that the Minister of the Environment will be making a statement on this matter tomorrow.

Perhaps the member's question was a bit premature.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

CORONER'S INQUEST

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question for the Attorney General. I believe he met today with some representatives from the midwifery coalition regarding the coroner's inquest into the death of Daniel McLaughlin-Harris.

I wonder if the minister agrees with the parents and a great number of people who are involved that the coroner's inquest should focus on the cause of death and recommendations in that area and that the whole question of alternatives for families in the birthing process should be dealt with by a public inquiry.

Has the minister received this recommendation from the family and those others involved, and is he open to considering this request at this time?

Hon. Mr. Scott: Officials of my ministry met with representatives of the parents and the midwife and heard their complaints about the way the coroner's inquest had been proceeding. It was our view that if they feel strongly about it, the appropriate thing is to apply to the courts to have the coroner's inquest reviewed, as they are entitled to do under the Judicial Review Procedure Act. We made that suggestion to the people with whom I met.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I will ask the question again. Is the minister willing to consider a public inquiry into this matter, which is very important to a large number of people in Toronto and elsewhere throughout Ontario? Further, does the minister not understand that a large number of people are concerned that this coroner's inquest, rather than dealing with the narrow matter that should be before the inquest, is broadening in scope? In fact, when one considers the issues in front of a coroner's inquest and the coroner being a doctor—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: -a lot of people are concerned that a doctor cannot deal with this issue because of a professional conflict of interest.

Does the minister not agree that this matter should be taken into consideration and that he should consider a public inquiry so this matter can be dealt with properly?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am aware of and share some of the concerns of the honourable member. However, I think the appropriate course is to allow the inquest to hear the balance of the evidence, to conclude and to have the jury reach its decision. Thereafter, if there are concerns about midwifery generally, no doubt they can be expressed to the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), who can consider the matter in a general way.

Mr. Pope: Will the Attorney General and this government continue the health-professions review process that was instituted a year and a half ago as the mechanism to expedite and resolve these matters?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I hardly think that is a supplementary question, but I will be glad to consider it.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I am just giving him a little advice.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am getting a little help here.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Last week that was expensive.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I will be glad to consider the question and let the honourable member know. 3:30 p.m.

INSECT INFESTATION

Mr. Pollock: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Is he aware that there is a heavy infestation of gypsy moths in eastern Ontario and in particular in Hastings county? What is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It is indeed more difficult to answer questions than to ask them, but yes, I am very much aware of it. The member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. South) has brought the matter to my attention. They had a meeting and it was well attended. We certainly have a dilemma about pesticides. The problem is much broader than one might think.

In eastern Canada, we have already seen a great involvement regarding whom the onus of proof was on as to the danger of the pesticides used. It seems they never quite resolved the problem. Were the people who were using those pesticides and who had some concerns about the impact on the environment really going to be able to use them without having to prove there was a danger? Or would it be those people who were making an appeal who would have to prove the danger existed?

What we are up against is the proliferation of the gypsy moth and the budworm. My ministry is at a very great disadvantage in the matter of using the sprays because we are limited to bacillus thuringiensis. I am sure we are going to bring those people in the area together and see how we can resolve the problem mutually. That is the kind of government we are going to have and that is what we are going to ask. Those people who have the problem will be brought together and we should resolve it together.

Mr. Pollock: Why would the ministry not use Sevin?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That is the very chemical that has been brought into question. The fact is that we have to investigate the impact of Sevin on the environment. I will be discussing that with the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). When we can do something that is going to clarify the matter, I shall be pleased to bring it back to the House and notify the member.

FORMER GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENTS

Mr. Laughren: My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. First, I congratulate him on his appointment.

It is his government's stated intention to review many of the decisions and appointments made by the previous government since the May 2 election. In view of that, will the minister review the 47 cutting licences and four forest management agreements that were signed by the then Minister of Natural Resources?

As well, will he consider looking into the possibility of revoking those agreements temporarily while environmental assessments are held, particularly regarding those forest management agreements? Environmental assessment was one policy raised during the campaign that the Liberal Party said it would engage in.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Certainly that matter has been brought to our attention. The member for Nickel Belt has shown his interest in the management of the forests of Ontario by going across the province and providing a report to the former government. I have perused this report and am certainly going to take it into account.

On the same basis as my last answer, I would ask all members to participate in the resolution of how we are going to deal with forest management in northern Ontario. Of course, the subject raised by the honourable member would be an important part of that question. I cannot make any commitments as to what we will do, but I assure the member we certainly will look into those matters that have been agreed to on the short term and share the answer with him.

Mr. Laughren: I am almost overwhelmed. Two of those forest management agreements were signed with Great Lakes Forest Products, and we all know the history of Great Lakes Forest Products and the pollution of the English-Wabigoon river system. Would the minister revoke at least those two forest management agreements until two things have happened: (1) an environmental assessment is held on the impact of that agreement and (2) financial compensation has been made with the Whitedog and Grassy Narrows Indian bands?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I cannot suggest at this time that I would revoke anything until I have had a reasonable time to study it. I know there has been a great deal of objection to forest management arrangements and I know the reason for it, that we have to get into the whole process of reforestation. I am not sure I am familiar enough

with the forest management arrangements to take into account whether they have met the criteria.

I know forest management arrangements are supposed to have as much planting as cutting by the year 2020. I think we have reached something like 82 per cent of the goal this year. We fell short because of some problem with funding.

The question the member has raised will certainly be looked into. At this point, I cannot say to him that I will cancel any of those arrangements until we have probed the validity of the arrangements. I will get back to him about that part of his question.

Mr. Harris: The minister indicated he is well aware of the shortcomings of the forest management agreements. Can he tell us what those shortcomings are?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Obviously, I have already pointed them out to the members. The shortcomings are that we have met only 82 per cent of our goal this year. If we are to reach full reforestation of the cuttings, which we intend to proceed with, then we have fallen short.

I am not placing any criticism in any particular direction, but I am certainly not going to be satisfied, and I do not think anyone in this House will be satisfied, until we have reached the goal of planting as much as we cut. I do not think anybody should be satisfied with less. That has not happened, but it is going to happen.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Briefly, I want to update the members further, particularly the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke), on the fact that the inspector who visited Valenite-Modco—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think you are asking whether you can revert to ministerial statements, are you not?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Might I briefly update it as a point of order? It will only take 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker: If the House so desires, you can; but if not, I cannot allow it.

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Speaker: The minister can make the statement tomorrow.

PETITION

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. Sheppard: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows: "Whereas the proposed extension of funding to separate secondary education will significantly change the character and delivery of secondary education throughout Ontario, reducing the density of students and the variety of educational program offering; and"—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the member, but there are quite a number of private conversations. They may be necessary, but they are very noisy. Please show respect to the member for Northumberland.

Mr. Sheppard: "Whereas the decision to extend public funding to Roman Catholic separate secondary schools was made without the benefit of public input, legislative debate or in-depth study of the potential impact of such a change in policy; and

"Whereas the necessary changes in legislation and regulations will be found to be more responsible and subject to greater consideration and evaluation than is possible before the commencement of the 1985-86 school year; and

"Whereas the required programs and accommodation modifications will require more planning time than is available prior to September 1985; and

"Whereas any legislation that is inconsistent with the Constitution is to the extent of the inconsistency of no force or effect, we petition the Ontario Legislature to delay implementation of the proposed separate secondary school funding until appropriate, constitutionally acceptable legislation is in place."

3:40 p.m.

MOTIONS

STANDING COMMITTEES

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the following standing committees be established for this session, with power to examine and inquire into all such matters as may be referred to them by the House, with power to send for persons, papers and things, as provided in section 35 of the Legislative Assembly Act:

1. Standing committee on members' services: to examine the services to members from time to time and, without interfering with the statutory responsibility of the Board of Internal Economy in such matters, be empowered to recommend to the consideration of the House matters it wishes to draw to the special attention of the board, and be empowered to act as an advisory committee to Mr. Speaker and the Board of Internal Economy in the administration of the House and the provision of services and facilities to members,

and to draw the special attention of the House to such matters as the committee believes requires it; and

2. The standing committee on social development.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that the membership of the standing committees on social development and on members' services be as follows:

Standing committee on social development: Mr. Allen, Mr. D. S. Cooke, Mr. Davis, Mr. Epp as substitute for Mr. Henderson for Bill 30, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Jackson, Mr. R. F. Johnston, Mr. Offer, Mr. Pope, Mr. Reycraft, Mr. D. W. Smith and Mr. Timbrell.

Standing committee on members' services: Mr. J. M. Johnson, Mr. Lane, Mr. Laughren, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. McKessock, Mr. G. I. Miller, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Polsinelli and Mr. Rowe.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTIONS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved that, unless otherwise ordered, substitution be permitted on all standing committees provided that written notice of substitution is given to the chairman of the committee before the committee meets or in the first 30 minutes after the committee meeting is called to order.

Motion agreed to.

WITHDRAWAL OF BILL 2

Hon. Mr. Van Horne moved that the order for second reading of Bill 2, An Act to amend the Human Tissue Gift Act, be discharged and the bill withdrawn.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Conway moved, seconded by Mr. Scott, first reading of Bill 30, An Act to amend the Education Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Before I make a brief statement, I want personally to thank the staff of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of the Attorney General who have worked very long and hard over these past number of days to bring about this bill.

This bill, of course, is the bill that will allow this Legislature to complete the Roman Catholic separate school system to the end of the secondary panel and that will allow this Legislature to complete a journey begun over 140 years ago in a predecessor parliament in this province.

It deals with, among other things, the election by a separate school board to perform the duties of a secondary school board, the entitlement of a Roman Catholic school board to share in legislative grants, powers and duties in respect of secondary school grades, and the phasing-in of those secondary school grades within the Roman Catholic secondary system. It concerns, among other things, the election of separate school electors and all the other questions that are attached to bringing about the completion of the public funding of the Roman Catholic separate school system in Ontario.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE BILLS

Hon. Mr. Nixon moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Peterson, resolution 3:

That, due to the interruption of the consideration of private-bill legislation as a result of the dissolution of the 32nd Parliament, the applications for private legislation relating to Bill Pr10, An Act respecting the City of Niagara Falls, and Bill Pr41, An Act respecting the City of Hamilton, be considered during the present session without payment of further application fees, without publishing further notices of application and without lodging further declarations proving publication; and, that the application for private legislation relating to Bill Pr46, An Act respecting the Brockville Rowing Club Inc., be considered during the present session following publication of further notice of the application and lodging further declarations proving publications, but without payment of a further application fee.

Motion agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Peterson moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Nixon, resolution 2:

That the government enjoys the confidence of the House.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, if I may address you briefly on the subject, we have had much discussion in the last few days about the government's ambitious agenda, our plans and our vision for the future of this great province. I need not remind you that a couple of weeks ago the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario invited me to form a government. I was very honoured and felt

deeply humble when the invitation was extended.

It is impossible for my colleagues and I to form a government without the support of this House. That is why we wanted to come into this Legislature at the earliest available opportunity to seek the confidence of our colleagues in this House so we could carry forward our ambitious legislative program.

You had the benefit of that two days ago, Mr. Speaker. You have already seen some tough and bold decisions made by our ministers. I can assure you that, in my best judgement, we are ready, willing and capable of providing leadership for this province to build a better future for everyone.

It is important that we come to this House and ask for its confidence, without which no government could survive, as my friends across the way would be the first to attest. It could not be done on Tuesday last because of the pressing necessity of having a supply motion passed. It is no secret that the time frame under which we are all operating is unique and new to all of us. It has skewed some of the conventional approaches to parliamentary practice, but I believe we have done the best we can in the circumstances in responding to the challenges of leadership.

I am very proud to stand on behalf of my colleagues and ask for the confidence of this House so that we can proceed with the leadership we are determined to provide.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Ashe: I appreciate the opportunity to join in the very brief debate that will be available to us this afternoon on government notice of motion number 2, "That the government enjoys the confidence of the House."

Needless to say, I see no reason whatsoever that the government we have seen over the past eight days, that has been operating here over the last three, should enjoy the confidence of hardly anyone, especially the honourable members contained in this chamber.

All we have to do is look back to certain events that took place on May 2, 1985. It is true the people of Ontario were telling us maybe it was time to look around, maybe it was time for the government of the day to be aware of some concerns they had. However, lo and behold, on last count, and I do not think it has changed, on May 2 the people of Ontario voted 52 seats for the Progressive Conservative Party, 48 seats for the Liberal Party of Ontario and 25 seats under the name of the New Democratic Party. Under our democratic system that means the government

should have and should still be led by the

Progressive Conservative Party.

Why should that be? Why should that mandate have been carried on? Why was it not? We have heard many references to the so-called unholy alliance. That is exactly what it is. Even if we had had an official consolidation, co-ordination—whatever you want to call it—coalition of the first party as it is now and the third party, the New Democratic Party, that would have been fair ball. That is recognized within the democratic process of this great country of ours.

That is not what happened. We had literally a behind-the-scenes, behind-closed-doors agreement that has ended up putting the party with the second-lowest number of seats leading the government of this province. To me, that is an unholy alliance. Hence, I do not see how anybody with conscience can vote to support it, or suggest this government that is being led by one party and puppeteered by another should enjoy the confidence of this House.

In actual fact, what has happened before? If one looks back on the last number of years, led by the party of which I have the honour and the privilege of being a member, Ontario has indeed been the strength in all of Canada. It has had the highest job creation record of any province in this jurisdiction, the lowest unemployment rate, the lowest debt per capita, the lowest number of public servants per constituent served.

I am really concerned about the mandate this government is asking of this Legislature and the people of Ontario. The policies that have been enunciated by this leader and through spokesmen on behalf of the government in the last few days are going to jeopardize that enviable record. They will jeopardize the confidence of the business community not only in Ontario but possibly all of Canada.

What is going to happen when that comes to pass? The first thing we can probably all agree on is that not too far down the road we will lose the highly coveted, well-earned respect of the investment community and the triple-A credit rating that has been bestowed upon very few in Canada. The Ontario government, of course, was one; the province of Ontario. We will lose that and it will add millions of dollars to the cost of servicing the debt of this province.

What will happen when the business community becomes very concerned with the policies that have so far been enunciated by the party in power at the moment? This will, in my view, undermine the confidence of that community and further investment in this great province of ours.

We must have the confidence not only of the business community that now resides in this province but of the business community worldwide.

In the past we have spoken as a government and said Canada and Ontario welcome new investment. There have also been initiatives from the new government in Ottawa. I am very concerned now that the welcome mat we have put out has been tarnished. It has been tarnished by the pronouncements made to date by the socialist-led party across the way. It has been tarnished by the impending very real concerns we have about fiscal responsibility. I appreciate and acknowledge that it is going to be very hard to follow the high standards of fiscal responsibility that were set by the previous government.

This is another excellent reason that it is very difficult for the government to ask this Legislature to vote it confidence, although I appreciate it has the authority and right to do so. How can it possibly come before this august body and ask us to vote it confidence when in such a very few days we have seen some of the inconsistencies, as opposed to what government members were saying not too many months ago? We have already seen the cracking in the veneer of the so-called alliance. These things are causing great concerns not only to the members of this assembly but also to the populace of the province.

We are talking about many items that make our province great. There was an indication two days ago by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) of some of the initiatives his government will be bringing forward. For example, to bring in one aspect I would like to touch on for a moment, I have great concerns about the implications of the extension of rent control to all dwelling units in Ontario. I appreciate this is, to use a word that is not taken out of context, a rather sexy subject.

We all know there are many more tenants than there are landlords. It is very easy to appeal to the masses in that regard, but a government not only has to have appeal, it has to be responsible. When it brings forth changes in policy, it has to look upon not only the short-term but also the medium- and long-term implications to the economy or to the province as a whole.

I am very concerned that the proposed extension will not only make it much more difficult to attract capital to this province in the building industry, but it will also completely drive away any opportunity we still have of the private sector continuing to invest in rental

accommodations. Yet it is through the private sector it should be done.

It has been extremely difficult as it is, with the rent review legislation that has been in effect, but at least we have not moved away from the mandate suggested a number of years ago. We said: "Yes, all the previous buildings. We know the cost implications. There shall be rent control, rent review, etc." We are now breaking a commitment we made to that very vital industry in Ontario when we suggest: "Do not worry about what we told you in the past. It does not matter whether you have a new or old building. Forget all that. Everything applies."

There is nothing more important in this province than having a reasonable and responsible development industry that is prepared to invest its time, energies and talents to provide the rental accommodation so badly needed by the citizens of this great province of ours.

4 p.m.

I could go on for another hour and three quarters with the reasons this government has no right to receive the confidence of this House, but I will leave many points to others. In very short terms and very few words, I would like to summarize why this House should not and will not give, or this party at least will not, support and confidence to the government.

We have a province second to none, but we have uncertainty that has come into this province in very recent times. We have an unholy alliance that has made it possible. We have a government that is in power not because the democratic process has put it there, not because the electorate of Ontario has put it there, but because of other means. As long as that situation exists, I will not today, as my colleagues will not, vote confidence in the government.

Mr. Martel: This is the first opportunity I have had to speak and I want to wish the new Speaker well in his endeavours. He knows full well he can count on my assistance at any time. I might on occasion become distracted or a little obstreperous—

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Or provoked.

Mr. Martel: Or provoked on occasion. I have been provoked already by the phrase of the member who just wound up, who said, "unholy alliance." It is as though, by divine right of kings, the Tories have been able to rule. If anyone were to consider someone else should rule, then it is an "unholy alliance" or a number of other terms used by this member or the former Premier (Mr. F. S. Miller). It is as though there will be

barricades out on the street. My God, it is as though they were ordained by God himself.

I want to tell them it is not quite that way. That lesson was learned in England a number of years ago-quite a few years ago. Obviously the Tory party in Ontario has not learned it. They think if anyone else gets to run the place for a little while, we are going to have barricades on the street. They think it is an "unholy alliance."

I wonder what my friend called it several years ago when we in the New Democratic Party helped the government of the day to stay in power. There was a sort of blackmail the Tories used every time they wanted a bill in a certain way. I know, I was House leader then. Every time we suggested we might move an amendment, the government would say, "That means no confidence and if you move that amendment we are going to call an election." That was repeated over and over again. What happens traditionally in our democratic process is that governments go down on fiscal policy.

Do members remember the 1977 election? I recall it well when Darcy himself, the Duke of Kent, decided we would have an election on a two per cent amendment. It was the phoniest issue—the phoniest reason for calling an election. The polls must have looked good and the government decided: To heck with the people, to heck with what was going on out there, there would be an election because it looked good for the government to get a majority. That was the type of democratic process that operated previously. I suggest to members it did not make for very good government.

It made for brinkmanship every day. If the opposition parties even deigned to suggest they might introduce an amendment, we would get the same thing: "We consider this to be no confidence." It did not matter what it was, eithermonetary or nonmonetary. If we sent somebody to the washroom it might have been considered a no-confidence motion if it was not at the appropriate time. That is the way the Tory government operated under Bill Davis for four years during the second minority government, 1977 to 1981.

When my friend gets up and prattles on about confidence, I want to tell him they are where they are because they lost the confidence to rule of both the people and this Legislature.

I will just give a few examples. I have already heard the apologist to my right on the spills bill. In fact, I think it was the Conservative Agriculture and Food critic and the former Minister of the Environment who this week were presenting

reasons why we could not proceed with the spills bill, which has been waiting for proclamation since 1979. Do they mean to tell me that in almost six full years we could not work out the problems in the spills bill and bring it forward? That is an indication.

I am just going to go through a litany of these things. I heard the former Premier, the member for Muskoka, when he talked about this agreement we had. I am wondering if the Tories can recall when they rewrote the rules simply by their numbers in the Legislature. Do members remember Bill 179? I hope the former Premier will listen to this. We rewrote the rules. We put a new procedure of time allocation in the House. We did not do it by rules such as my friend the former Premier talked about. The Tories simply rewrote the rule book because they had 72 members and they could just ram it through.

We introduced a new procedure called time allocation, which to this day is not in the rules of the Legislature. However, the former government of Ontario used it on at least two or three occasions to get legislation through. Because it did not want to use the existing rule on closure, it rewrote the rules.

When I hear government members talk about 700 years of the democratic process being wiped out by some form of agreement, I say to them, "How have you emasculated the rules simply by using your numbers in this Legislature to introduce new rules?" They introduced new rules without going through procedural affairs or even any type of discussion. They have a lot of chutzpah.

In 1976, a select committee recommended televising the proceedings of this Legislature. For eight or nine years the former government would not move on it. They sat around on their haunches and ignored the select committee report.

I could go on. Today, that party is so willing to have staff. Is it not wonderful? The Tory back-benchers want staff. I recall fighting that battle alone for years at the Board of Internal Economy. Last week, people were breaking their necks to move motions when, for the five previous years, one could not even get a seconder to a motion at a meeting of the Board of Internal Economy to acquire the required staff to do the job we as opposition members have to do. I do not know what the rude awakening was, why they suddenly became so enlightened, unless it was enlightened self-interest we were talking about.

Mr. Rowe: The work load has increased.

Mr. Martel: Overnight. That is because everybody has gone to the barricades and we have such chaos in the province we now need extra staff to fulfil our obligations. I am glad to hear that.

It is interesting. For years we tried to talk about it in a rational fashion and we could not do it. I believe my friend who spoke previously served on the Board of Internal Economy for a while.

Mr. Rowe: It is a new world.

Mr. Martel: It is a new world. Right.

They could hire staff. They could pay contract workers, or parliamentary assistants would get people to help them in the ministry. It did not matter then, did it? It was unimportant that people have representation, that people here have sufficient staff in order to carry out their responsibilities to look after their constituents. It is funny how quickly it became important after the government of that day went down the tubes and the members realized they were going to be faced with having inadequate staff.

I want to deal with a couple of much bigger issues. I want to deal with my own area for a moment and to indicate why we as a party have decided we should give somebody else an opportunity to run the province.

4:10 p.m.

In Sudbury, we have 16 per cent unemployment. Some 15,000 people have left the area and still we have 16 per cent unemployment.

My friend and colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and I prepared a document called A Challenge to Sudbury. The members will be interested to know that we used a variety of government studies to put that document together, things recommended by both federal and provincial civil servants who had studied the issues. With massive unemployment and with 15,000 people leaving the area, despite sending that document to every cabinet minister and despite having three debates on the plight of Sudbury, to the day this government went down the tubes we had not received a response to any of the matters in A Challenge to Sudbury.

There is the potential for development based on studies by the Ministry of Natural Resources, the federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, and so on. In that document, we talked about such things as refining all our resources in Canada or Ontario rather than, for example, allowing Falconbridge to continue to send all its nickel to Norway to be refined. Faconbridge has yet to refine a pound of nickel in

Canada, let alone Ontario. In fact, Falconbridge has just committed \$43 million more to expand its operation in Norway. That means it will take unrefined nickel from the Sudbury basin, take it off to Norway and process it there along with nickel matte it is going to pick up from Botswana.

For years we tried to get this government to understand. As far back as 1969, when the Mining Act was changed and amendments were brought in, we said to the Tory government, "You have to ensure that resources mined in Ontario are refined in Ontario." Over the years, despite putting the clause in the bill, the government has continuously given one exemption after another. At the present time, there is a total of about 26 exemptions allowing them to refine resources in another country.

One wonders why we have unemployment in a country that is filthy rich with resources. Part of it is that we have sent them out either semi-processed or not processed at all. We do not have the courage in this country to stop those shenanigans.

My friend the member for Nickel Belt and I talked about the fact that, in addition, we would have to build a refinery at Sudbury to refine precious metals. We do not refine the platinum group anywhere in Canada. Whether it be platinum, or any of that field extracted from the ground in Sudbury, it is all sent to England. Inco sends part of its unrefined resource to England.

We also suggested, and again we took it from people who had the time to study the problem, the necessity of producing mining equipment in the Sudbury area, the heartland of mining in Canada. In Canada we have an annual deficit of close to \$750 million for the importation of mining equipment. If one looks around Ontario, we do not produce much except for one or two small corporations, but we import a lot.

We talk about import replacement and starting the capacity to produce mining equipment in the Sudbury area to supply the gold mines at Timmins, the uranium mines at Elliot Lake and all the various types of resources we have in the north. I first got that written into a select committee report in 1974. I am going to come back to that select committee in a few moments because I think it held many of the solutions to the problems facing people in Ontario.

Despite getting it included in 1974, I think we have one small outfit that is going to produce what they call a continuous mucking machine. Inco is going to produce it, but that is certainly not enough to meet the devastation in a city in an

area that has provided a great deal of Ontario's wealth, and which has an unemployment rate of 16 per cent at the present time and has lost 15,000 people in the past five years.

The government did not respond. My colleague the member for Nickel Belt and I had three emergency debates in this House. Do members think we could get the government to talk about anything? There was no way. We suggested, for example, that the phosphates in Cargill township, about 200 miles from Sudbury at the most, could be combined with the sulphur dioxide emissions, which is converted to sulphuric acid with the phosphates, to make fertilizer and substantially reduce Inco's emission problems.

The former Minister of Natural Resources, the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), got up in this House and answered in a very childish manner when asked about it by the former member for Cochrane North. Between the two of them, they had a little game going. The former member for Cochrane North got up and said to the minister, and I recall it well: "Those two greedy members from the Sudbury district, Martel and Laughren, want to take the phosphates from Cargill and take them down to Sudbury and make fertilizer. You would never let that happen." The then minister got up in his place and said: "That is right. As a government, we have a policy regarding resource extraction which says we will process at source." Can members imagine that, coming from a government which had 36 exemptions? It was up that high at one time.

The phosphate is still sitting there in the ground, no closer to being mined today than it was two years ago. The company which owns the mining rights wants to take it from that area to the United States. Do members know what reasons they give for not taking that phosphate out and turning it into fertilizer? Members will never guess. It is because, as I said, it takes sulphuric acid to be combined with it, and they say an inadequate supply of sulphuric acid is the reason we cannot produce fertilizer in this part of the world. Inco is emitting daily and is the single largest contributor to pollution on this continent. There is a way of reducing that problem and providing jobs for people in Cochrane and in Sudbury by combining those two raw resources to make a finished product in Ontario.

We could not even get a response, save the little exchange between the former member for Cochrane North and the member for Cochrane South in question period. That was all we got from this very responsive government which—the

former speaker said we have to be worried about business, interest, trade and what not. We have the resources to do many things; we have not had the capacity or desire to do them.

Do members know what the Tories never mention? It is that our success in Ontario has been despite them. It has been because of location, in the heartland of the industrial United States. Just look around. Within 100 miles of our borders, there are 100 million Americans. Our success has been because we have been geographically fortunate; it has not been because of any sound economic planning. The former government does not know about that. They think if one throws a little money at someone, one will get-

Mr. Mitchell: Come on, Elie.

Mr. Martel: Well, my friend, let me tell them-

Interjection.

4:20 p.m.

Mr. Martel: I sat on a select committee, let me say to my friend, that did 21 reports called "economic nationalism." Bill Davis instituted that committee. It sat from 1971 to 1975. It issued 21 reports on the type of economic development that should go on in Ontario.

I can think of one or two minor recommendations that were adopted by the government. I believe one was that 50 per cent of the shareholders had to be Canadian or Ontario citizens, which is a bit of a laugh. I think they did a little work, so little that I have difficulty remembering, but we covered every possible topic. We spent four years and millions of dollars, we travelled and we had the best research going, but the government of the day would not look at any of our solutions. I suggest to my friends on my right that they should go back and read all 21 of those reports.

We talked about land ownership, about education, post-secondary education and funding, about economic development, about mining and forestry, right down the list. That went on for four years. The committee, by the way, was made up of seven Tories, two Liberals and two

New Democrats.

Let me give a nice example. I was pushing very hard to suggest that resources should be refined or extracted by the province. That part scares the Tories and it scares some Liberals, especially the new Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell). It was interesting that by the time we were done, the committee voted that 50 per cent of resource extraction should be done by the province. Yet there were seven Tories, two Liberals and two New Democrats on the committee.

My friend the late member for Nipissing, Dick Smith, asked Ian Deans, my colleague who was on the committee with us, and me, if he could join us in calling for 100 per cent of resource extraction to be done by the province, because we had been so inept in what we had done with our resources. Considering that Inco had 85 per cent of the world's nickel, but we do not have a secondary industry in Ontario related to nickel, that is really irresponsible.

In question period today, my colleague the member for Nickel Belt raised the whole matter of reforestation. We know the government and industry have both made an abysmal mess of reforestation in this province. In fact, the very man who now heads up that part of the ministry, Ken Armson, indicated in his report four or five years ago that we would be short of the type of wood we need in the next 10 years.

After 42 years of Tory domination when they looked after our resources, we are going to be short of wood. That says a lot about the confidence of the Tory party, I say to the Tory member who spoke ahead of me. I raise a very simple question: Why is it that we are in such a terrible situation that we could have a shortage of wood when the Conservatives have not been disturbed in power for 42 years? What has been that party's stewardship of the resources of this province? It has been awful, to put it mildly.

In 1977, when we were discussing these issues, the government created a new ministry called the Ministry of Northern Affairs. I was the critic at that time. I know there is a new minister in that portfolio now, and I suggest he might want to go back to those debates and read the six or seven amendments I moved when we created the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

The first amendment I moved was that we should establish a tomorrow fund. I called it a tomorrow fund because in northern Ontario we have a terrible problem in that when an ore body runs out, a community dies. I moved an amendment that would have seen the province take a percentage of the return on the tax from resources. This would have been put into a fund so that when a community lost the base for its economy-where a mine went dry-we would have the moneys necessary to establish a different type of business. Otherwise, the infrastructure that was already in place for a town-schools, hospitals, sewers-was all going to pot. I tried to get an amendment through this House to establish such a fund, but the only party that voted for it was my party.

If we had started 10 years ago to take a small percentage of those funds from resource extraction, we would have had some money to establish a new business when a community dies. It is cheaper to start a new business, I suggest, than it is to see every worker in a community lose his home and Ontario lose all the money that has been put into the infrastructure. I could not get the amendment through.

I also suggested the Ministry of Northern Affairs should have some planning powers, and I wish the new minister would look at that idea. I do not want a Ministry of Northern Affairs that is merely a pork barrel; that is what the Tories did to us. We should not have the minister running around northern Ontario with his chequebook, handing out a cheque here and a cheque there.

When a town faced economic disaster, the former government ran in with a little cheque. In Sudbury when we had the big closures, they ran in with a little cheque, created 2001 and funded it for three years. The then Minister of Northern Affairs, the member for Kenora (Mr. Bernier), promised funding for three years—\$150,000 this year, \$100,000 next year and \$50,000 the year after—until they became self-sufficient. Three weeks ago he wiped it out. Now they have 2001 in financial commitments but they do not have any funds because the member for Kenora said there are no more funds.

By the way, the member for Kenora is the only member living in a widespread northern riding who did not have one cent of long-distance telephone calls, according to the expenses that were tabled here several weeks ago. I do not know how he communicated with these people. The whole thing is perverse.

I go back to planning by the ministry. The new minister needs planners in his ministry. If that ministry is going to do what it should be doing, it should be able to help us find diversification so our young people will stay in the north. Those of us who come from northern Ontario know full well that the chances of our kids remaining there are remote.

We have to have planning power in that ministry. It should not be running around with a chequebook, giving out dumb patronage—a piece of road here and a piece there—because it might result in five votes. One never knew whether the road was required because of the traffic volume or what—only that it made good political sense. That is what that crazy ministry was all about.

Similarly, if one wanted to talk to officials in another ministry, such as the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, one found they felt that intrusion by the Ministry of Northern Affairs was totally unacceptable. Then that government wondered why we did not support it.

When there was massive unemployment in many communities in northern Ontario, what did that government do? It ran in with a chequebook and gave a few bucks to do a little study. One only has to look at Atikokan, which faced tremendous hardship when two mines closed. The government ran in there and put in a little hydro unit. It did not get serious about studying the problem and doing what it could, so the people moved out. I do not think the unit is even going to be used, is it? I think it has been shut down because there is no necessity for it. But there were some construction jobs while the unit was being built.

4:30 p.m.

Cynicism about the north is unacceptable; it is just god-awful. I get so angry as a northerner when I know that we have the resources up there and that our kids—I have two of them in university now—will not come back. There will be no opportunity for them to come back, unless they want to work in a mine. Even then, Sudbury has dropped from 19,000 miners at Inco alone to 7,100 hourly rated employees over 13 years. None of the kids is coming back.

We have the capacity, we have the material and we have the resources. What we have never had is the willingness to have government become the catalyst to bring in industry as other countries do. For example, West Germany plans with business and labour, and government infuses a little capital to get some secondary industry going where it is wanted. Sprinkling a little money here and there is not going to do it. It has to be planned, and I hope this government will do that. The former government did not plan. It ignored the north or used it as a place to draw off resources, and to heck with the people there.

I know this government will be more sensitive in many ways because of our agreement with it regarding, for instance, the transportation of people who are ill. That has been on the books for two and a half years at the urging of the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds). It was supported and passed but the Tory government would not introduce it. During the election campaign, funnily enough, they found they could pay for the first trip.

A family in my constituency has a 10-monthold son. The man earns \$630 every two weeks and his bills to bring that child to the Hospital for Sick Children totalled \$1,900, which is three pays. We could not get the old government to budge. It was intransigent. In fact, it was dead but did not realize it was time to fall over. We have given it that little push and it is over now. We are going to help families to bring their children here for the care they need.

For that reason, we in this party laugh at this silly amendment. Only two days ago they voted aye for supply for the government of Ontario to have money until the end of October, and two days later they are voting no confidence. That is why that party had to go and why our party will support this government as long as it adheres to the agreement we have with it.

Mr. Callahan: I was going to start off by saying, "To be or not to be," because I feel rather like Hamlet in his soliloquy when I look around this chamber. I want to address the significant issues and say why I support this government and why I am confident a Liberal government will be the government.

The Conservatives keep talking about an unholy alliance. What they do not recognize is that after 42 years in power there were so many blatant things that both parties were able to pick them up very quickly. Now we are trying to deal with them very quickly rather than delay them another four or five months.

It is absolutely ridiculous, when the government comes forth with very sensitive efforts to deal with the sins of 42 years, that the approach is taken not to support it. If members read through the statement by my leader, they will find contained therein a concern for people who have been left without any assistance or help over the past 42 years.

As I looked at the legislation coming out of Queen's Park, the question was what Martin Goldfarb wanted—or was it Decima? It was not a question of new ideas; it was a question of old, rehashed ideas. The government never seemed to address in advance; it seemed to address in the past. The only time any legislation of significant value came out of here was was when it was taken from one of the opposition parties.

I suggest to the members opposite that if they go through this statement, they will see a new type of government, a government of the people, by the people, not that of some pollster or special group. They will see the opening of a new door that had to be opened and was begging to be opened.

In some respects, the door was a bit easier to open in view of the massive majority the Conservatives in Ottawa got with their great promises that there would be government for the people, by the people. Of course, that was if one was not a senior citizen. We all saw what happened. We saw the people of this country rise up and say, "You cannot do that." That is exactly what happened on May 2. The people of this province rose up and said as one, "I have never known any other government except Conservative government if I am under the age of 42, but I do not like what is going on."

I suggest to the members that if they read through this document carefully, they cannot seriously say they do not support the present government. It is a breath of fresh air; every item is a breath of fresh air.

I come from a community where to be a Liberal was like being a Christian during the days of the Romans. Patronage was passed around to the privileged, to the friends. I am glad to see my leader has suggested that is over. We all know Mr. Mulroney suggested it as well. However, if the members compare that with the other sensitive items in here, they will recognize we are saying to the people of Ontario, we are going to select the best possible people in this province. It is not based on whether they happen to be carrying a Conservative membership card.

I remember one professional, whose exact title I will not give, who carried three cards: a Liberal card, a Conservative card and a New Democratic Party card. He never knew where it was going to come from and he was covering all the bases. I suggest it is a significant feature that we are no longer going to see this done on the basis of which party one belongs to; it is going to be done on the basis of one's talents. That will be to the benefit of the people of this province, and the dollars that will be paid to the people who get those positions will be money well spent.

Mr. Laughren: Just the way the federal Liberals used to do it; right?

Mr. Callahan: I am not here to defend the cause of the federal Liberals. I am here to defend the cause of the provincial Liberals, in which I believe.

Let me give the members a few examples of what I see as the stagnant approach of the previous government. A person in my riding has a grandson who, unfortunately, was born so ugly he would probably make the Elephant Man look like Clark Gable. He is two years old and has an excellent mind. That young child could be helped very significantly by having operations. If the

doctor chose to perform one operation today, one tomorrow, one the next day and one the next day, the Ontario health insurance plan would pay for all four operations. If the doctor in his wisdom chose to have all the operations at once, they would pay for only one operation. It is ludicrous that a young child should be treated in that fashion; it does not smack of any degree of sensitivity.

I will give another example. We had a \$40-million expansion at our hospital in Brampton. On one floor we have the most excellent cardiac acute care centre anyone has ever seen; it has eight beds. The only thing that occupies it is a plastic dummy because we do not have the funds to open that \$40-million expansion.

4:40 p.m.

We have other instances throughout Ontario. It is rampant. There was a 2.7 per cent increase for operating funds by the former government, with the great credit rating it told us about. We settle with our nurses for five and we are immediately in the red. Yet they take money from lotteries and use it for little things such as pleasing the people in a particular riding where the seat perhaps is not safe. They look at it as being money they themselves can use as they wish.

The statement by the Premier suggests we are going to improve things such as health care and education. We are going to look at the question of lottery funds and look after the essential items of the community, of the people. If there is some money left over, that is fine. One can use that for the fun things.

The previous government had it all backwards-

Mr. Gregory: Is that the policy position of the Liberal government?

Mr. Callahan: Well, I am reading it into the document. I may be chastised afterwards if that is not the case, but I am reading that approach into this document. Let me refer the member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory) to chapter and verse.

On page 17 of the document it states: "The taxpayers trust us to put their money to the best possible use. We will not let them down. Any policy or program that is outside a framework of fiscal responsibility is nothing less than a boomerang that will turn around and smash social progress." If that does not contain what I have said, then I am misreading it.

I refer members to page 18 as well, where it states, "As one measure of this government's firm commitment to sound financial manage-

ment, I am announcing today a government-wide review of all existing and planned advertising expenditures, effective immediately." That is certainly a turnaround from what went on over the years. I used to watch television, and every ad seemed to have "Ontari-ari-ari-o" in it. It seemed to have something about the Conservatives. It might be "conserve energy," "conserve this, conserve that." There was always that sort of subliminal advertising.

There seemed to be lots of money around to do that but not for proper funding of hospitals and education. The policy of this party, as stated in the Premier's statement, is: "Our top priority is protecting the interests of the people of this province. Every policy we pursue, every piece of legislation we introduce will be based on that principle." This statement rings a lot truer than the ones I heard during the campaign about "let us keep the promise."

It says the most important test for legislation or programs will be, is it fair to the people of Ontario? That certainly has the sound of something very new and open. It is the reason that people in my riding come up to me and say, "I voted for you, Bob." I knew they were Tories. They saw what was going on. They were fed up with it. They wanted fresh air in this House. They wanted this to become a people place again. That is exactly what is going on. It is dealing with the taxpayer's money on the basis of what is good for the taxpayer.

If one reflects on what happened between May 2 and June 26, it looked like scurrying for nuts because winter was coming. There was \$191 million—am I off base? Was it \$191,000 that was placed for supporters and friends? It was \$181 million. Think what could have been done with that money. The approach of our government is to roll that back as well, or at least look at doing that, in order to meet the commitment to look after the taxpayer's dollar. We are not going to look after it for ourselves. We are not going to look at it for what we can do for ourselves. We are looking after it for the people of this province whom we represent.

Any time a party or politicians get to the point where they do not know who put them there, they deserve to be defeated. I throw that out in response to the question put to me by the New Democratic Party.

I offer this statement as probably one of the most significant, far-reaching, largest breaths of fresh air; an entire change of government approach. No longer are we looking at it from the standpoint of what the professional pollster will

tell us is good for Ontario. We are looking at it with a very definite yardstick. No longer will we be necessarily looking to our friends in the United States for what is good there and bringing it here. It will all be weighed against the question of whether it is good for the people of Ontario.

In the past the Conservative government has looked at procedures in the United States, such as the regional government arrangement and even education, and brought them to Ontario without testing them in advance. We have seen problems in both those areas.

From this point on, from reading the statement of my leader the Premier, the approach will be what is fair and good for the people of Ontario. If the people in the Conservative Party cannot support that, then they will not support anything. We could put out anything that might appeal to them and they would still vote against it. That is not the way parliaments are supposed to work. Unfortunately, they do, I suppose. Parliament should work on the question of what is in the best interest, what is the best compromise for the people of this province.

One day we will get television—that is another feature. I am surprised there has never been television in this House. Television in the House is probably the best protector to ensure the democratic rights of people are upheld, to make certain the politicians representing the people are earning their bucks, that they are not wandering all over the House, that they are here and saying relevant things. I am really surprised it took a new government to bring in television. It should have been brought in a long time ago. It has certainly been around long enough.

I can recall being on council in my own city for something like 16 years when television was brought in. Some of my colleagues on council said, "We want to get rid of it." I said: "Why do you want to get rid of it? Do you not want the people back home or the people out there who voted for you to see what you are doing? That could be the only reason you would not want television in this chamber."

It probably has a two-pronged effect. If one is doing a good job, one has no problem getting re-elected. If one is doing a bad job, then it quite obviously works in reverse.

I urge members to consider the factors in this report. There are many more that ring of a sensitivity to people, a new approach to people and a new approach to government. I would hope there would be some Conservative members who would reflect on that, look at it and perhaps find, despite the discipline of parties, that they might

vote according to their conscience as opposed to what in unified fashion they are told to do.

There is a great book by Gordon Aiken. He talks about the clapping seals or trained seals. When it comes to an issue where there are good points to be presented by either party, I think they should be recognized and not simply criticized for the benefit of criticism. Perhaps that is the way we will get some compromise and some good legislation as opposed to always standing up and being negative.

I suggest that this document-

Mr. Gregory: Does the member want to start this new policy now that he is over there? How about when he was over here?

Mr. Callahan: If the member for Mississauga East looks through the report, he will find that this government, as indicated by the Premier, is one that is going to involve everybody. It is not a question that because one party simply happens to be the government it can do as it likes. It is a question of involving the best talents of everybody in this House. That is, again, a credential of a very intelligent approach to government. It is certainly going to result in better government for the people.

Mr. Gregory: Don't tell us about it until you practise it.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. Would the member for Brampton please address his comments to the chair and would the member for Mississauga East please—

Mr. Callahan: I am sorry. We happen to live in adjoining municipalities and that is how I happened not to go through the chair.

Thave no difficulty in accepting the statements made by the Premier. I have no difficulty in supporting them. In fact, I do not think any person who really is sensitive and concerned about the voters of Ontario could possibly do anything other than support this document.

4:50 p.m.

Mr. Rowe: Mr. Speaker, may I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to the office of Speaker.

We have been asked to pass a motion of confidence in the present government. I have some difficulty in expressing confidence in any government that was not directly elected by the people of this great province, above all things a government brought about by the overpowering greed of two political parties thirsting for power at all and any cost. I realize what the opposition parties must have gone through over the past 42

years, many times being so close they could taste power but never quite accomplishing it.

Today is a perfect example of what I am talking about. There was the introduction of an education act for the extension of separate school funding, a bill that obviously will not be ready in time for the September school date. Instead, the present government intends to bypass the House to fund the schools in time for September.

It is obvious the present government will not guarantee free access for all students. I ask the government how it expects to have the confidence of this House after eight short days in government and the introduction of a bill that will be funded by the public, yet with no guarantee of space for all students of this province regardless of their religious beliefs.

This is the greatest province in our country. That did not happen by mistake. That was not the result of some sort of fluke or luck of the draw, so to speak. That was a result of years of careful, good government; good management and Progressive Conservative ideas.

I noted with interest the Premier's ministerial statement of July 2. The points it contained were not the bold, new initiatives the Premier speaks of. Some of these ideas have been stolen, robbed or pillaged from the Conservative platform in the last election.

As a representative of a riding made up of people from many walks in life-farming, urban and industry—I am concerned that the people of this province also do not share the confidence of the present government. I ask how we as a party could vote confidence in the present government today. Because of the present nondemocratic process under which this government exists it will not receive the confidence of this party.

The member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) spoke of absolute rule by divine right by the Tories. That is not the case. We are not crying sour apples. We are simply saying the only way to power by the opposition has been a deal inside the House when the election results showed a larger number of seats were won by our party, not by either opposition party. A deal had to be struck to gain power.

It is easy to criticize the past 42 years of government, but the people of this province cannot afford the socialist programs being proposed by the opposition party to my far left. I warn the government that the power to tax is the power to destroy. The people in business and industry who are so important and vital to this province eventually will stand up and say, "Enough is enough." We have seen it in British

Columbia and other parts of the free world. The only road to recovery is sound economic planning by sound-thinking people who have the ability to govern wisely.

Sometimes I wonder whether the opposition party to my left really understands how the economic world works in Ontario. Unlike that opposition party, we do not make gains by capitalizing on disenchantment and stroking the fires of discontent. We offer progressive, forward, positive ideas to the people of this province and that is why this province is as rich and successful as it is today.

Mr. Breaugh: The motion before the House is a rather unusual one for us to see at this time in a session because it is a confidence motion put by a government. One would have thought when we had a money motion before us a couple of days ago and all three parties supported that motion, that traditionally would be considered by all parliamentarians as the ultimate confidence test. When one spends money, that is an indication of whether the House really has confidence in the government. All three parties at that time said, "Yes, we do." It appears one of the parties has had a change of heart in the last few days and has now decided it does not.

This is going to be an unusual parliament. It came about in an election that did something which has become rather common; it dealt us a minority government. After all, it is the electorate that decides how many members there will be from each of the parties and specifically who will be members of this Legislature.

There seems to be confusion in some members' minds about what a parliament is. Some members do not seem to want to understand or to care much about parliamentary history or tradition, but that is what the people do when we have an election. They elect members to a parliament; in this case, to this one.

From that comes a smaller group of people referred to as the government. It appears some are having great difficulty coming to terms with that. Some in this Legislature do not seem to want to realize that the electorate did not give them a majority. I seem to recall a fellow by the name of Joe Clark who came up with a minority in the federal Parliament. Joe decided, "Never mind what the electors had to say, I have a majority."

It worked for a while until they started having votes. Then the vote indicated they really did not have a majority. One cannot win all the motions on all the legislation one wants.

Somehow a weird notion seems to be creeping into the process that members of a Legislature, duly elected, cannot go about organizing themselves to form a government. It seems to me we have done this with great regularity in the past little while, for a decade or so, by entering into agreements, verbal and otherwise, with those who want to form a government as to what legislation would proceed, when it would proceed, how we would change the rules of the House and a great many things.

All those agreements were struck. I did not hear anyone yelling that in some wonderful way it was not proper for members to sort out the business. Given the results of the last election, I do not know how this Legislature would proceed without some form of agreement.

There are those who seem somewhat taken aback that this time somebody had the audacity actually to write down an agreement and to suggest the agreement ought to be more concrete and specific than previous agreements had been. I was here in 1975 and 1977 when agreements were made on a daily basis with the then government formed around the Progressive Conservative Party.

I did not hear a Tory in the place cry, "Foul." I heard them say: "That is the way minority governments work. We want stability for the minority government." I heard them say in the period from 1977 to 1981 that a minority government could last for four years with those agreements.

If that party came to agreements with opposition parties to make the government survive for a four-year period, I would have thought there surely would have been no difficulty with an agreement for a two-year period. There seems to be a lot of disappointment, which is natural, that they were not the ones who managed to come to

some agreement.

As one who was negotiating for my party, I want to put on the record again that if there was some great principle, some great religious conviction, some great parliamentary tradition, some great democratic process at work that stopped the Conservative Party of Ontario from coming to an agreement this time, it sure as hell was not operative in the negotiations themselves.

If great principles evolved, they evolved in the corridors and in front of the television lights. They were not present at the bargaining table. At the bargaining table all parties entered into agreements and discussions in exactly the same way. When we met with those who represented

the Tories in Ontario during those negotiations, I have to say that we had to keep apace.

The offers came hot and heavy. There was no mention of Standard and Poor's and fiscal responsibility and no worry about the deficit. We had to write like mad to keep up with the offers. They had offers on the table we had not heard about before. They were not just dumb socialist ideas; they were real dumb socialist ideas that were flowing out.

5 p.m.

Since all this has transpired and we now have a government in Ontario, the second one in a very short period, it does seem to me, unusual though it might be, that some formality such as this no confidence motion this afternoon is appropriate.

I think it is reasonable for me, as an opposition member, to say we have entered into a lot of discussions about this. I wish I could say that all of this is going to unfold exactly the way I would like it to happen. I do not think that is very likely, but I do know this much: as someone who has worked in this Legislature during several minority periods, I do know this is a better process than the one we used before.

At least I have some yardstick whereby I can measure our own accomplishments as a political party. I can measure what the government either has done, or has tried to do, or forgot to do entirely. A couple of years from now we will be able to make that judgement call about whether that was a good way to proceed or not.

It is unusual, I will admit, that in the history of parliaments no one has ever quite gone about it in this way. But then again, I seem to recall that in the early parliaments there were no parties, none at all, no recognized political entity. Therefore this kind of thing had to happen in a slightly different way. We do not do that—

Hon. Mr. Nixon: There still are not organized ones.

Mr. Breaugh: I am not making the accusation that there are organized political parties in this Legislature. It is conceivable that might emerge, but it has not happened yet.

It is an unusual way to proceed but it is, I believe, a better way to proceed than what we did in the two previous minorities. I think I should try to cover a couple of other points here. Somebody made mention earlier this afternoon, I forget who, but it is probably relatively unimportant so I will not search out his name, that this was an "unholy alliance" struck in secret. As one who was a participant in that process, I have to say there were lots of folks who were ready to make that unholy alliance in exactly the same way. His

political party was there right at the trough just as quick as could be.

The negotiations were conducted in private, that is true, but there were as many daily briefings to the press about what was happening as we could make available—where the meetings were and all of that. I do not think anybody in his right mind would suggest for a moment that one could have that kind of negotiating process in front of television cameras. I do not know of any negotiating process that ever happens in that way. There are some formalities around the edge that are very public.

But the public of Ontario knows they elected a Legislature that involved a minority government. The public knows that all three political parties attempted to set forward an agenda for reform, so to speak; an accord or an agreement or whatever one wants to call it. At any rate, the parties decided they would try to put down on paper what we would do for the next little while. We came to an agreement with one political party and not with another.

But that is not to say that one was willing and the other was unwilling. I was there and I can state that both were very willing participants in the process. Frankly, so were we. We believed it would be quite possible. I have a little difficulty with this when I go back home because there are people who think we never have to vote yes or no on an issue. There were some people who told me, "Do not strike an agreement with either of them; do not vote with either party."

But there comes a time when somebody calls a bill for second reading and we do have to stand up or sit down. There will come a time this afternoon when we will have to say yes or no. It is the way a parliament functions: from time to time we have to vote with a group of folks we might not normally want to side with. That is why we are here.

We are not here to take a walk every day when the votes are called. We are not here to have a little vacation during the legislative period. It is our job, however unpleasant it might be from time to time, to be legislators, to be here when the votes are called and to make up our minds one way or the other. That is precisely what happened. The no-confidence motion that is before us this afternoon gives us perhaps our second opportunity—the first one was when we voted on the supply motion—to express whether we are in or out of this agreement to do things.

I reread again this afternoon the speech made by the Premier. It is not everything I wanted it to be, but I cannot remember a time in my political career when I really wrote the complete ticket and the world unfolded exactly as I thought it should. Politics for me is always about opportunities to help other people, to do the best I can, and that is all I ever promise anybody. In his statement there are a lot of things for which I have worked a long time. Let me just run down a couple and then I will leave members alone for a while.

In this House there has been a lot of debate about televising the proceedings because many of our members are aware folks back home are not too sure there is a Legislature here. They think there is a government in Ontario but they are not too sure about the process. They want to know, quite rightly, why it is they cannot see the Legislature of Ontario on television. They can watch their city council and federal parliament, but why cannot they watch the proceedings of the Ontario Legislature?

That is a good question, and it goes back to why it was possible to strike an agreement with one group and not another. This group of people, me in particular, expressed an interest over the years in televising the proceedings here. We have gone through committees as to how that might be done. We have had debates in the Legislature. We have voted on it, but it still has not happened, because the previous government, frankly, just did not want it.

I feel reasonably confident that within a short period of time the proceedings of this Legislature will be as available to my constituents as the Oshawa city council meeting. That pleases me. It offers me the opportunity to say that is one good idea I think is worthy of a vote of confidence this afternoon.

A range of changes have been proposed around the standing orders of the Legislature, how committees function and openness in government. I will probably not be happy with the final result of all that work, but I will be immensely happy that I now feel we have the opportunity to actually do all those things that, frankly, four or five years ago I thought we had agreed upon.

All of that stood in place until the reality of March 19, 1981, hit this joint, and the government of Ontario became a Tory majority again. Then I found out, much to my dismay, all bets were off, all agreements were broken, everything the three parties had agreed to was out the window because one party had a majority and did not want to do anything more.

For me, the sad reality was March 19, 1981. I did not like that. I suppose I sulked around the

building for a while; however, that was political reality. The people of Ontario said: "This is what we want," and that is what they got. On May 2, 1985, another political reality hit. Some people have not accepted that yet. I understand that.

Dare I say I have friends who sat in the cabinet who are still wistfully waiting for the chauffeur at the east door? He is never going to arrive. I know some folks who had the opportunity to just about get into the cabinet for a short period of time. They did not even get the cars warmed up, or a chance to redecorate the executive suites. They were just there for a brief moment in history, and now they are gone.

Mr. Runciman: The member for Oshawa will never get that chance.

Mr. Breaugh: The member for Leeds will never know. I have had lots of chances lately; some I took and some I did not.

Mr. Runciman: The member's friends would never take him.

Mr. Breaugh: The member for Leeds is interjecting here. I want to put on the record, and I would not do it if he had not interjected, that if this group here had wanted to be in cabinet, have \$12 million deposited in a Swiss bank account and every kind of limousine we wanted, there was an opportunity, for a little while one afternoon in a room of this building, to get it all. We chose not to.

Mr. Martel: Was that room 263?

Mr. Breaugh: It was room 263.

Mr. Martel: I thought so.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Breaugh: I want to conclude by saying I do not anticipate this session of the Legislature is going to be very easy for many people. We have set out an agenda which is ambitious and difficult. We have a government which is a little bit new, and it shows around the edges. It will be a bit awkward. We have had slick for 42 years, so if we have something which is not quite as slick for a little while, it will please me no end. There is an opportunity for individual members to develop a role which is meaningful to them and their constituents.

So this motion this afternoon provides me with just a basic opportunity to say: "Yes, I want an opportunity to see if we can make this minority government work. We have laid out the goals we are trying to accomplish. We have pointed out a rough time frame in which we would like to get started, and we will do that." It is a minority. It is a difficult situation. We think we have arrived at a way to organize the legislative program for the

next little while that makes sense to at least two of the parties here. If there is a third party that is unhappy, that is what one would call the realities of May 2. One party did not get the electoral results it wanted so badly and has had for such a long time; but then, again, I want to conclude by saying neither did we.

It would have been much nicer for us if we had been able to put together a government in Ontario, as we have done in three other provinces, but it did not happen. It is our job, as members of this parliament, to deal with the political reality and to try to structure it in such a way that it is positive in nature.

That leads me to the last little thing I want to say. There is a confidence motion with an amendment. It is one that we should deal with seriously. It is one that I think will provide us with the opportunity to say: "Let us proceed," as we had previously decided to proceed.

I, for one, hope we do not see a lot of games being played around this kind of stuff for the next little while around here. I have lived through minority governments where it was almost kamikaze time, where almost every legislative day had some great minefield exposed to the members. It was fun, it was a thrill a minute, but I am not convinced it gave the people of Ontario very much in the way of solid government. I know that it very often produced good legislation, but I also know, and have learned since those previous minorities, that legislation is part of the process, but that a government must then carry that out, whether it is a rent registry, a spills bill or regulations on occupational health and safety, all of those things have to happen.

I want to conclude by saying we will support this motion of confidence in the government this afternoon. It is not something we are all that comfortable with, but we have embarked on an endeavour that we think is positive. We think it will work and we are going to work very hard to make sure it does.

Mr. D. W. Smith: It is my pleasure today to speak as a member of the Legislative Assembly for the people of the Lambton riding. I feel very proud to stand in this House and be able to thank the constituents of Lambton for having given me this opportunity to represent them.

I want to congratulate each and every member who has been elected or re-elected to this Legislative Assembly, but especially I want to congratulate our leader, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson), who ran an excellent campaign for himself as well as helping the rest of the Liberal members to win their ridings. I

believe he deserves to be the Premier of this province.

As members know, or at least a great number of members will know, Lorne Henderson represented my riding for approximately 22 years. It is only fitting that I should congratulate and commend him on those many years of service to the people of Lambton. I always believed Lorne was very liberal to the residents of Lambton, and I certainly—

Mr. Sheppard: He got more tile drainage money than anybody else.

Mr. D. W. Smith: He worked hard for it all I am sure.

An hon. member: Are we on the record? Finally they admit it.

Mr. D. W. Smith: I would hope that I will be able to work with this great assembly and work equally as well for the people of Lambton.

Mr. Sheppard: The member won't get nearly as much tile drainage money as Lorne Henderson got. I will grant him that.

Mr. D. W. Smith: I want to tell the members that the Lambton riding has Lake Huron as its north boundary, Middlesex on the east boundary line, Kent county on the south boundary and the St. Clair River and Sarnia township on the west boundary. Within this jurisdiction we have two Indian reserves, namely the Kettle and Stony Point Band and the Walpole Island Band. I might add that both of these reserves are doing an excellent job of governing themselves at the local level.

I want to make a few comments on the agricultural industry and say to the members here that it is in a very unstable position. The \$500,000 capital gains exemption that can be used once in a lifetime may be a great help to the farmers who are of retirement age, but if our young people are unable to purchase these farms then it is meaningless to them. Some very large corporations are going to control more agriculture than they already do, and I do not believe this is good for the future of the food industry, or the world for that matter.

As long as the family farm is allowed, and if necessary helped, to survive, then our small communities and small businesses will be able to survive. This would keep a balance in our society that would be acceptable to our people and would also make our province strong again. Basic economics dictates that in order to have all sectors of society working well together and in balance with one another we first must have the

primary producers, which are agriculture, forestry and fishing, in a strong position.

I believe that when the people voted on May 2 they were voting for a change. We did get 38 per cent of the popular vote and I feel that was enough to tell the people in this House that we are ready for a change. I think the Liberal Party can do a job under the guidance of our Premier. It has been a pleasure to say a few words here today and to speak favourably to the motion.

Mr. F. S. Miller: I rise today to speak against the motion of confidence in the government and to suggest there is every reason for us to do so. Our party awaited with great anticipation the statement the Premier introduced in this House this week. Like many other Ontarians, we were sadly disappointed.

Mr. Martel: Where is the rest of the cabinet?
Mr. F. S. Miller: They are over there now, remember?

Mr. Martel: The old cabinet; the shadow cabinet.

Mr. F. S. Miller: They are out working hard. It was a statement memorable more for its omissions than for its commissions. It was devoid of innovation, except for that which it found in our throne speech a month ago. It was also devoid of many of the commitments the Liberals themselves had made during the election campaign and since.

On the basis of that statement, neither we nor the New Democratic Party-

Mr. Rae: Thank you, Frank.

Mr. F. S. Miller: You really do not have a closed mind over there, Bob.

Mr. Rae: I have heard that hope springs eternal, but this is ridiculous.

Mr. F. S. Miller: I have also heard of preordained decision-making, which seems to be the case over there. Neither we, the NDP nor the people of Ontario have reason to have confidence in this government's intentions or its ability to keep its promises and commitments.

I suggest a government that on day one of its presence in this House seriously alters some of its basic promises is not worthy of our confidence or our trust. We certainly did not agree with some of the Liberal policies during the campaign or afterwards, but we do agree, and we hope the NDP does, that a deal is a deal, a commitment is a commitment. When the Liberals leave the NDP at the altar, that party should stop and think.

In very simple terms we believe that a person or a political party or a government is only as good as its word. We ask how good this new government is. How much can we trust it in the weeks ahead? How can others trust it? Surely it is the height of hypocrisy for the Premier to stand here before us and say he and his party have suddenly realized that equal pay for work of equal value—

Mr. Martel: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The former Premier might not agree, but over the last number of years the Speaker has ruled that the word "hypocrisy" cannot be used in this House with respect to other members. You might ask the former Premier to withdraw it.

The Deputy Speaker: I do not think the Leader of the Opposition used the word "hypocrisy" with respect to any particular member. 5:20 p.m.

Mr. F. S. Miller: I will withdraw the words "height of hypocrisy" and simply say it is height of incredibility to discuss equal pay for work of equal value, to make a deal on that basis, and suddenly to determine it cannot be legislated in the private sector. Suddenly-overnight, in fact—the Liberals have realized, as we had, that the concept needs study; it does warrant consultation with the private sector.

We happen to agree that there will be problems over the implementation of the equal pay concept and that caution as well as commitment is warranted. That is why we have stated so since the beginning. During the election campaign we did not state otherwise, and we did not promise the New Democratic Party one thing only to stand up in this House and suddenly take another position. We in this party ask how could we possibly vote confidence in a party that could do an about-face so quickly on an issue that was a cornerstone of its election platform and of its accord with the NDP?

What of the other promises it made? What about child care? We on our side of the House committed ourselves to 7,500 places and \$22 million on March 20. Now the government led by the member for London Centre, after affirmations of great commitment to child care during the election campaign and in the NDP accord, reduces the subject to seven words in its statement of this week. What about the 10,000 places that were promised? Has the government changed its mind on that? Is it possible it has had a change of heart?

Agriculture and acid rain get similar short shrift from a government whose leader went right across this province promising the moon and who apparently now is willing to deliver only a limp reference to those subjects in his statement. We have a very real and special concern for agriculture. The agriculture and food industry of Ontario continues to make an outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of our province, and over the years successive Ontario Progressive Conservative governments have recognized and encouraged this. We have cause to be alarmed about what the new government intends for this vital industry.

We look at the Liberal cabinet, for example, and we see one member who makes his living from farming. What kind of representation for farming is that? How strong and effective is this one voice at the cabinet table for this tremendous sector of our economy? We do not have confidence in this government in this regard and we believe we speak for the agricultural community when we say this.

On the new government's very first day in office we said we were more than willing to be helpful, even patient. But it is difficult to be either when the member for London Centre states over and over again how much his government has accomplished in such a short time. It must be accomplishing it because only three ministers were in the House today, and certainly not the Premier.

We have to ask them what those accomplishments are. The Liberal Party goes to great lengths to stress that it has been waiting for 42 years to bring in innovative measures. Obviously that was not long enough, because the Liberals' first attempt this week was, to put it mildly, woefully disappointing and sadly lacking in any reflection of the great amount of thought that must have been given to the document the Premier introduced. After 42 years we got 43 initiatives, the majority of which were copied right from our speech from the throne.

We are quite willing to be charitable for a while. We are quite willing to work in that spirit. In that spirit we wonder if the new government is just suffering from amnesia at this state of its own development. Perhaps in the statement of intent the Liberal government forgot some of its commitments to the people of Ontario; commitments such as denticare, right-to-know legislation related to toxic substances, election campaign financing reform, French-language services, official bilingualism, post-secondary school financing, contract preference and other forms of affirmative action. That is just a small part of the list. I could go on and on.

On Tuesday we waited, as the people of Ontario did, to hear at least a reference to the Liberals' promise of a \$100-million fund for new

rental construction. We ourselves had committed considerably more, but we were willing to be patient with the new government until it found its way in this vital area. But there was not one word, not a hint. What has happened to that one? Has that commitment not survived the transition to power, the move from the first floor to the second floor? Has it been altered? Has it been scrapped altogether?

What about the promised elimination of Ontario health insurance plan premiums? We sat waiting breathlessly. How does the Treasurer (Mr. Nixon) feel about that? How does he feel about \$1.6 billion? It did not matter when he sat over here; not at all. He would find it somewhere —from general taxation. Now he has discovered it is three points, and perhaps four, of sales tax. We waited for a long time, but there was not a word, not a hint whether that promise would be kept now or at any time in the future.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Some time in the future.

Mr. F. S. Miller: Good. The Treasurer is on record: "Some time in the future."

There is no green paper, no discussion paper, no consultation paper. Does the idea live? Does it live in his heart? Has it died? What has happened to it? I heard it for so many years when I sat over there as Treasurer: "Just do away with them."

Miss Stephenson: Overnight.

Mr. F. S. Miller: Overnight it could have been done; that fast. Now they need a study or something. They did not even talk about putting all the cards on the table. Maybe a few were under it; I do not know. Maybe they are not even in the game any more.

I reiterate our party's sincere intention to give this new government a chance. However, I remind this House how much our party accomplished in the period between May 2 and June 26.

Mr. McClellan: Time for a change.

Mr. F. S. Miller: They will never be able to use "Time for a change" again. However, the time for the change for the Liberal Party will be much shorter than the time for the change of the Conservative Party.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: That is not what Larry says, but go on.

Mr. F. S. Miller: He wants it as fast as I do.

Mr. Martel: What does Larry want?

Mr. Rae: Tell us what Larry wants.

Mr. F. S. Miller: He wants to see this team succeed, as all members want to see it succeed.

I do not want to embarrass the government by reiterating all the accomplishments of our government during the seven weeks, but I recall to memory our significant initiatives in the areas of the environment and family law, for instance.

A sudden thought occurred to me today on family law. If a divorce occurs between this party and that party, does this party get half the seats? Do we divide them evenly down the middle, 12 New Democratic Party seats for the Liberals and 24 Liberal seats for the NDP? It sounds good, does it not? Can I work that deal out for those fellows? Will they vote no confidence today if I can get a commitment from the Liberals?

Family law reform will require equal division of assets. Certainly we would have brought that one in. Let us go on, not only with all the promises but also with the actions we took in the concrete form of legislation: a new ministry for youth employment and training; tourism promotion; housing; occupational health and safety; mine safety; social services; hospital funding—part of the funding they are going to review is the assistance we gave the hospitals in the last week or so—and agriculture. There were all kinds of areas of great concern.

Given that the Liberal Party announced its accord with the NDP on May 24, we in our party believe the new government had more than ample time during that month to prepare a document of intent that would not be such a poor comparison to our own speech from the throne, which was prepared in approximately the same time.

We have already sensed the new government's strategy and we know what it is trying to do. It is trying to blame the previous administration. They are trying to say we were indecisive. The truth is they were indecisive. They are indecisive now and they are inexperienced in power.

Mr. Rae: Eight days is too long.

Mr. F. S. Miller: Eight days is too long.

Mr. McClellan: Every eight days we will change the government.

Mr. F. S. Miller: No: just once.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition could ignore the interjections and address his comments to the chair.

Mr. F. S. Miller: The scenery is much better looking this way.

5:30 p.m.

We suggest it will not wash. It just will not cover the indecision and inexperience of this administration. It certainly will not wash with us, and we believe the public will not buy it either. We are perfectly willing to admit we made mistakes. We are, after all, only human. But to

suggest we did not leave behind a heritage of sound management and responsible and responsive policies is just plain wrong.

This new government inherits a constituency whose financial statement is sound. This new government will be ill advised to try to state otherwise because it simply would not be true. This new government inherits a deficit which again, this year, has been reduced and is down from both the 1983-84 level and the original budget estimate for this year. The level of our deficit is now the lowest per capita of any province in Canada.

This province is poised for a third continuous year of growth. Our unemployment rate is the lowest in Canada. Our job creation is the highest, exceeding the numbers of all the other provinces combined. The rate of growth is higher than any jurisdiction in the United States.

The Liberals should not try to tell us they cannot keep their commitments because of what they inherited from us. This new government and this new Premier know full well it is because of the sound management we have practised for so many years that it will be possible for progress and reform to continue in Ontario. They do not have to blame us for their shortcomings; rather, they have to thank us for their ability to bring in the kind of continuing progress that Ontarians expect from their government.

We in our party were surprised at suggestions this week that our government had somehow acted improperly in carrying out the responsibilities of government between May 2 and June 18. We remind members that the people elected us to govern; we were not chosen to do so by the New Democratic Party.

Surely the members opposite have learned already that the business of governing cannot come to a halt. Every day there are dozens of issues that need immediate attention. There are commitments to individuals and groups in our society that have to be kept. I say that with great respect because the members over there are discovering that now.

The members opposite are discovering how great the work load is, how onerous the decision-making process is when one is in government. I hope they appreciate that we worked very hard at it. We appreciate that they too are working hard. We simply want to make the point that one cannot bring society to a halt because one government may be overthrown. We carried on business as usual while we worked out who was going to sit on which side of the House.

I have gone through the funding commitments we made in the light of the Premier's suggestion that we have tied his hands as far as his own priorities are concerned. If the Premier believes any of our commitments were frivolous, we would like to know which ones.

We would like to know which commitments this government intends to alter or reduce or even cancel. Would it be the \$60 million for health care, \$43 million of which is for hospitals? Or would it be the \$11 million for municipal affairs, \$3.5 million of which is for assistance to the victims of the Barrie-area disaster; or the close to \$4 million for services for the Ontario Provincial Police; or the more than \$4 million for agricultural programs? Or perhaps it would be the \$25 million for community and social services including \$13 million for child-care initiatives.

Surely the Premier cannot be referring to the \$30-million loan to Petrosar to modernize equipment and preserve jobs in the vital petrochemical industry.

We care about jobs. We believe we could have created 200,000 new jobs in this province this year. We already had created 120,000 at the end of the fifth month. What are the new government's targets? Do they share our belief that it is in the private sector that meaningful, lasting jobs will be created and maintained? A government without walls or barriers sounds very good; it looks good in the headlines, but it does not mean a whole lot to somebody who is out of work.

We are very anxious to hear how the NDP members can support this motion today, knowing totally that they have been betrayed and knowing full well that the agenda of this government falls far short in so many areas, job creation being just one of the most obvious.

The NDP vowed to oppose our speech from the throne before its members even saw it. They then vowed to support the new government's proposal before they even saw it. Taking those two steps certainly constitutes a rather bizarre approach to responsible opposition, in our opinion.

Today the NDP will presumably support the government even after having seen the document. I suggest such a move not only will endorse the proposals of the Liberal government but also will amount to an approval and endorsement of the betrayals and omissions of that document. We cannot do that. To do so would be a breach of trust with the people who voted for us.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. F. S. Miller moves, seconded by Miss Stephenson, that all the words

after the word "that" in the resolution be struck out and the following be substituted therefor:

"The government has evidenced its inability or unwillingness to honour its commitments to the people of Ontario in a number of areas including agriculture, rental housing and equal pay for work of equal value, and therefore the government does not have the confidence of the House."

Mr. Rae: I had fully intended simply to listen to the debate today, but I was sufficiently moved by the speech of the Leader of the Opposition to want to say a few words in this debate before it closes.

What can one say about an opposition party that states, as it does on page 7 of the prepared text of the speech of the Leader of the Opposition, "I reiterate our party's sincere intention to give the new government a chance." He expresses that thought in the middle of the speech, and at the end of the speech he says, "Now we are going to move no confidence in the government."

They should make up their minds. Either the opposition members want to have a government that has the confidence of the House or they do not; either they are going to give it a chance or they are not. The Tories say they want to be a responsible opposition. We have not seen such arrogance since Jack Pickersgill told Lester Pearson to stand up in 1957 and tell John Diefenbaker he did not have the right to govern because he was not a born Liberal.

No party has a God-given right to govern. The Conservative Party does not have a God-given right to govern, and neither does the Liberal Party. It is something that has to be earned by the nature of the democratic process. It is absurd, after eight days of a government, that the Leader of the Opposition himself recommended to the Lieutenant Governor—

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: No. The Leader of the Opposition himself recommended that the new government be given a chance to govern. He himself recommended that be allowed to happen.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I hope members will allow the member for York South to continue so he can be picked up by Hansard. In case Hansard has not picked it up, perhaps he would like to repeat it. I am quite sure members will give him an opportunity to continue.

Mr. Rae: I am quite happy to participate in an active House. I do not mind that at all.

I simply want to say that the Leader of the Opposition, then the Premier, went to the Lieutenant Governor and said, "I recommend that you give Mr. Peterson a chance to govern." Two days ago—

Interjections.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Rae: No. Wait a minute. Calm yourselves. Listen to this. Let us get the scenario down. That is what happened.

Members now in the opposition recognized the reality. Two days ago their party voted supply. They voted what all of us realize, that in the traditions of the House, one needs to have supply in order to govern. Now, two days later, they say: "We want to be a responsible opposition and we want to give the government a chance. That is why we are moving a motion of no confidence."

These guys have learned nothing. Nothing has changed. They still cannot believe they are not the government. They cannot believe that after 42 years something has changed. They still think nobody else has the right to have a chance or the right to try to govern. They think nobody can do it but the Tories because they are divinely guided.

Mr. Davis: The member for York South (Mr. Rae) does not know what no confidence is any more.

Mr. Rae: I hear all the calls.

Let me make it very clear: minority parliaments have to be made to work and everybody in that parliament has an obligation to make it work. The Tory party may decide it is going to run around with a grenade in its mouth and the leader is going to say, "Watch me, I am going to pull the pin and we are going to blow up the whole thing." But that is not the way in which responsible government operates.

If a responsible government is going to operate in a minority parliament, everybody has an obligation to show that degree of responsibility. We do not have the luxury any more of playing the kinds of games the official opposition is playing, saying halfway through the speech that it wants to be responsible, charitable and give the government a chance, and then turning around at the end of the motion and saying: "Anyway, because this is what opposition does, we are going to move a motion of no confidence. We are going to say that things have not been done."

Lots of things have not been done. The government recognizes that and we recognize that, but the fight begins on the floor of this Legislature to see that those things get done. The

fight begins in a minority parliament. The bargaining, the influence, the mobilization of public opinion, all those things happen.

Let me also say to the Tories that they are not the only party in this province which has a right to govern. Other people ought to be given a fair chance too. The Tories clearly do not believe in fairness or fair play. They have demonstrated that today in a way I would not have believed if I had not seen it with my own eyes.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: In the six minutes remaining, I am very glad to express my support for the motion and to urge the Leader of the Opposition to reconsider what he has put before the House this afternoon.

I ask him to ponder the events of the last eight days. I ask him to think of the sun shining down on that platform in the front of this building during the swearing-in ceremonies, when His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by the Premier-designate, came up the walks leading to the Legislature.

The flags were flying and the bands were playing. People from all over the province had come to Toronto-from northern Ontario, the farming areas, the urban areas of Metropolitan Toronto and the French-speaking communities of this land. They were proud to see that, after 42 years, an alternative had come forward that they could support and have confidence in.

I had that feeling when the present Premier came up the walk with his lovely wife and family, came up the steps and took the oaths of office and we as members of the administration were sworn in in his support. Since that time this place has seen more constructive, positive activity than at any time in the last decade. There has not been a sitting of the Legislature since we took office in which there have not been important statements made to this House.

One of the most important statements made in the last 50 years was made today by my honourable colleague the Minister of Education (Mr. Conway), supported by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), which is going to implement fairness in education funding, something that has been needed in this jurisdiction for many years indeed.

All of us in this House should be proud that the democratic process, working as it has, has brought to the fore a new Premier with new ideas and capabilities that have been needed in this province for many years. Those of us who have sat in the chamber in the past have known that under the previous administration—not just the

previous Premier's administration—this House has not had an opportunity to come to grips with the real problems of Ontario. Any sort of reform activity has been stultified, has been drugged and has been left asleep in the government benches—

Miss Stephenson: Watch it. The minister's tongue is forking right down the middle.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: —with one or two vocal defenders at the fore defending, as best she might, the moribund, old administration that had long outlived its usefulness. I would say the principal defender of the old government is probably one of the principal defenders of, let us say, the new Leader of the Opposition, whose position is anything but firm.

It is typical, I suppose, that the seat beside him is vacant even now, although we were glad to read that the leadership contenders had been brought together by the member for Eglinton (Mr. McFadden) and horse-whipped, or something, into agreeing that they would not bother him for a full year. Actually, the full year is not bad, but we in this House are now looking to two years of stability—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: –in which my honourable friend and all of us on this side can bring forward our program. We can respond to proposals–

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am considering adjourning for a few minutes because I cannot hear what is being said.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Would the honourable members refrain from interjecting.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I hope, Mr. Speaker, you are not going to adjourn because of the grave disorder that is coming from the opposition party.

I simply want to close my remarks by saying again to the former Premier and his supporters that here is an opportunity for them to show some class. We have a new Premier and a new government. The former Premier has indicated, as properly he should, that as the new Leader of the Opposition he is going to give the government a chance.

We have had eight days filled with decision and leadership, but there are many more such days to come. We are confident that the motion is going to be sustained, but it really would be significant indeed if the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues would reconsider what has been put before the House this afternoon.

5:50 p.m.

Let us all join together. We have an agenda for reform. There is not a person in this House who does not feel it should go forward. The speech from the throne, which was authored by the present Leader of the Opposition, responds almost point by point to that agenda for reform that is the agreement reached by the Liberals and the New Democratic Party. Here is a chance for them to support such an agenda. I earnestly ask all members in the House now and at voting time to support the motion calling for confidence and reject the amendment out of hand.

5:55 p.m.

The House divided on Mr. F. S. Miller's amendment, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Brandt, Cousens, Davis, Dean, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gregory, Grossman, Guindon, Harris, Hennessy, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Lane, Leluk, Marland, McCaffrey, McCague, McFadden, McLean, Miller, F. S., Mitchell;

O'Connor, Partington, Pierce, Pollock, Pope, Rowe, Runciman, Sheppard, Shymko, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, Timbrell, Treleaven, Turner, Villeneuve, Wiseman, Yakabuski.

Nays

Allen, Bossy, Bradley, Breaugh, Bryden, Callahan, Caplan, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Cordiano, Elston, Epp, Fontaine, Foulds, Fulton, Gigantes, Grande, Grier, Haggerty, Hayes, Henderson, Johnston, R. F., Kerrio, Keyes, Knight, Kwinter, Laughren, Lupusella;

Mackenzie, Mancini, Martel, McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock, Miller, G. I., Morin, Morin-Strom, Munro, Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Offer, Peterson, Philip, Poirier, Polsinelli, Pouliot, Rae, Ramsay, Reville, Reycraft, Riddell, Ruprecht, Sargent, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J.,

Sorbara, South, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Ward, Warner, Wildman, Wrye.

Ayes 48; nays 67.

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Peterson's motion, which was agreed to on the same vote reversed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Under the rules of the House, since the House will not sit tonight, I will read the business for the next week.

Debate on the government motion respecting redistribution will be held tomorrow morning. We expect the debate will not be completed tomorrow but adjourned. The notice of motion that will appear in Orders and Notices tomorrow is as follows:

That the House consider motions 1 to 36 standing in Orders and Notices and further notices filed with the Clerk of the assembly relating to the provisions of the Report upon the Redistribution of Ontario into Electoral Districts, such notices to be published in Orders and Notices on a day prior to the conclusion of the debate on this resolution, and notwithstanding its previous terms of reference, the commission is hereby authorized to give consideration to all motions so filed and to all submissions reported in Hansard during the discussion of this resolution.

On Monday afternoon, July 8, we will have second reading and committee of the whole House on a government bill to be introduced tomorrow respecting the Workers' Compensation Board, and on Tuesday, July 9, in the afternoon and evening, second reading of Bill 30. On Wednesday, July 10, the House will sit in the afternoon at two o'clock with routine proceedings, including question period, followed by second reading of Bill 30. On Thursday, July 11, in the afternoon and evening, we will have second reading of Bill 30, if the time is required; if time permits, other business will be arranged.

I will have a statement about next Friday's business next week.

The House adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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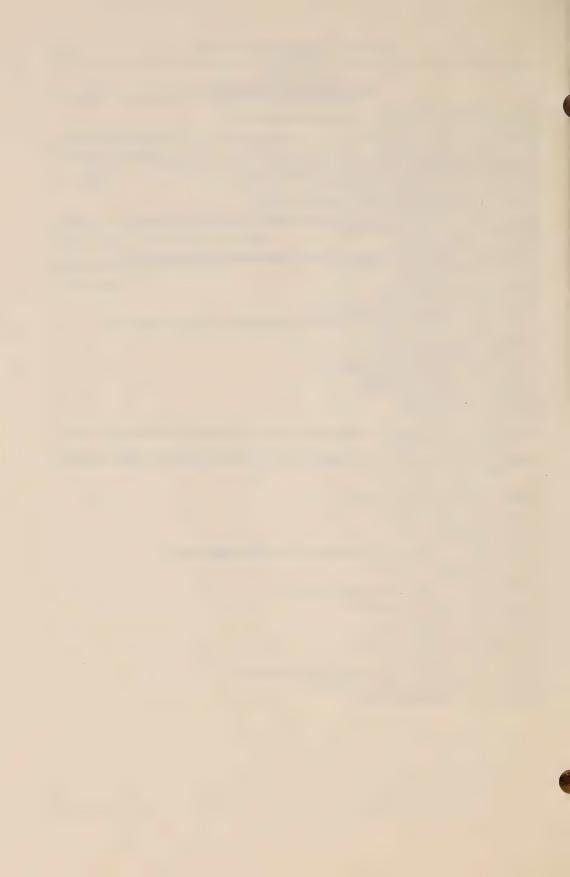
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No. 14

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 33rd Parliament Friday, July 5, 1985



Speaker: Honourable H. A. Edighoffer Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

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Reference to a cumulative index of previous issues can be obtained by calling the Hansard Reporting Service indexing staff at (416) 965-2159.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, July 5, 1985

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

BOARD OF INTERNAL ECONOMY

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that I have laid upon the table a copy of an order in council appointing the following members as commissioners to the Board of Internal Economy:

The Speaker, who shall be chairman; the Honourable Robert Fletcher Nixon, Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council from among the members of the executive council; the Honourable Jack Riddell, Minister of Agriculture and Food, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council from among the members of the executive council; the Honourable Elinor Caplan, Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council from among the members of the executive council; Joan Smith, MPP, appointed by the caucus of the government: Milton Edward Charles Gregory, MPP, better known as Bud, appointed by the caucus of the official opposition; Elie Walter Martel, MPP, appointed by the caucus of the New Democratic Party of Ontario.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: I would also like to inform the members that we have a guest in the Speaker's gallery, the Honourable John J. Harman, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia. Mr. Harman is breaking his journey in Toronto on his way to attend a presiding officers' conference in Kiribati, formerly the Gilbert Islands. I ask the members to join me in welcoming Mr. Speaker Harman.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Later today I will be introducing for first reading a number of amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act to provide for an increase in benefit levels. In recent years, it has been the practice to make such

increases effective annually from July 1. That tradition will be maintained, with the awarding of a general adjustment of five per cent.

In addition, those claimants receiving survivors' benefits prior to April 1, 1985, the date on which the new benefit provisions of Bill 101 were implemented, will receive a further increase of three per cent, for a total increase of eight per cent. All these increases will be effective from July 1, 1985.

In arriving at a determination of the appropriate level of increase for workers' compensation benefits in 1985, the government was guided by the desire to ensure that at the very least the adjustment in question keeps pace with both the increase in consumer prices and the increase in average wage levels throughout the provincial economy since the last benefit increase in July 1984.

At the same time, the government needs to be mindful of the potential impact of a benefit amendment on the future assessment rate policies of the Workers' Compensation Board. It is also very conscious of the fact that we are currently in the midst of a major overhaul of both the benefit system and the administrative structures incorporated into the act, a process that was begun but not completed with the recent enactment of Bill 101. I will return to the subject again in a moment.

A five per cent increase provides a margin over and above the rise in both the consumer price index and the average industrial wage in the past year. I am confident that no member of this House will begrudge that extra amount to the injured workers of this province. Even with the five per cent increase, the cumulative rise in workers' compensation benefits over the past decade would be slightly lower than the increase in the average industrial wage over the same period. At the same time, a five per cent increase meets the test of affordability. In short, it represents a responsible and equitable adjustment to the benefit levels of injured workers at the present time.

The additional three per cent increase for those in receipt of survivors' benefits paid in respect of fatalities that occurred before April 1, 1985, recognizes that this group received no direct

monetary benefit from Bill 101. That bill created a differential between the respective entitlements of pre- and post-Bill 101 survivor's benefit claims. The government is proposing that those survivors who remain on the pre-Bill 101 system of flat-rate spouses' pensions and dependent children's allowances will under this bill receive an extra three per cent and will continue in future years to receive benefit increases somewhat above the general average until such time as the gap I described is completely closed.

I referred a few moments ago to the fact that Bill 101, in the government's view, represents only a partial response to the very real problems and concerns experienced by injured workers in Ontario. These include the crucial issues surrounding the determination of appropriate levels for permanent disability pension; the frequency with which and the means by which these are to be periodically adjusted, including the issue of indexation of benefits; the whole question of reinstatement and re-employment rights for injured workers; and the securing of improvements in the effectiveness of the board's vocational rehabilitation programs.

Furthermore, I believe it is highly appropriate, in an era of escalating costs for the workers' compensation system, that we actively seek out new ways of ensuring the system is cost-effective. Certainly, an improved overall health and safety performance in the work place, in addition to its intrinsic value, would also have a welcome cost reduction effect. In furtherance of these objectives, and as part of its phase 2 review, this government is examining the contribution that experience rating of assessment premiums can be expected to make.

In considering the next stage of the review process, this government intends to keep open effective lines of communication with the board's client groups and to continue public discussion and dialogue on workers' compensation matters. However, a guiding principle of the review exercise will be to develop and implement the needed reforms in as expeditious a fashion as possible.

Accordingly, the review will be given high priority and upon its completion I will bring forward appropriate amending legislation. In the meantime, the benefit increase I have announced today will adequately compensate injured workers for the loss in value of their present benefit levels since the last increase they have received. I know of no group more deserving of such treatment.

10:10 a.m.

SPILLS BILL

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It gives me great pleasure today to announce the immediate proclamation of part IX of the Environmental Protection Act to provide a much higher level of environmental security and protection for the people of Ontario who may be affected by spills of environmentally hazardous substances.

This legislation has been under development by the previous administration for a very long time. It has been 2,024 days since this bill received royal assent and 2,035 days since it received third reading in the Legislature in December 1979. I am having this legislation proclaimed just nine days after being sworn in as the Minister of the Environment.

Accordingly, I have set a tight implementation deadline. The regulation for this legislation will go into force without fail on November 29, 1985. I have reviewed the basic legislation, which is sound and embodies basic principles on which I believe all of us can agree. Let me review those principles.

First, the owners, handlers and carriers of hazardous materials must take all precautions to prevent spills of those materials. Second, once a spill has taken place, those same parties bear full and absolute responsibility for its immediate control and cleanup and for restoration measures to undo any damage to the environment. Third, any innocent victims who bear cost or suffer damage from a spill are entitled to reimbursement and compensation.

Essentially, all parties in this Legislature have agreed on those principles since 1978 when the spills bill, as it was called then, was introduced. The problem has been the political will to implement it. I have reviewed the draft regulation prepared by the ministry after extensive discussions with interested parties to implement this legislation. It is in many ways good legislation and a good regulation.

The ministry would have the authority to order immediate control, cleanup and restoration of a damaged environment by those responsible for the spill if they do not respond quickly enough on their own. When a hazardous substance has been spilled to the detriment and risk of the environment and the public, control and cleanup cannot wait for the question of liability to be resolved.

As a further detail, the ministry would be authorized to order municipal or other parties to do control, cleanup and restoration work and to provide right of access for those purposes. The

legislation also provides for the recovery of reasonable costs and expenses.

The legislation also provides for an environmental compensation corporation to deal with applications from those who incur costs or suffer from a spill. Beyond that point, however, I noted flaws in the draft regulation as I first saw it. Most notably, it established the new compensation corporation as a court of last resort that could act only after all other legal remedies are exhausted.

I believe spill victims deserve better treatment and I have ordered the draft regulation changed so the corporation can provide more immediate relief for innocent parties who suffer from a spill. My staff is moving quickly to revise the regulation and make it available in its new form.

I also intend to take immediate action to appoint the environmental compensation corporation so the corporation can be ready November 29 to deal with applications from any innocent victims seeking costs or compensation as a result of a spill.

A special panel will be appointed shortly to review the regulation in public meetings and to consider the views of all interested parties. The review must be completed by the end of August so that any remaining concerns can be resolved and the regulation fine-tuned. It should be in final form early enough to give industry and insurers at least two months to take the necessary steps to comply with the law by the end of November.

In the interests of good and open government, I will ensure that this final fine-tuning of the regulation is done in an open and consultative way. However, the consultation will be brief and to the point to ensure there is no further needless delay in getting these protective measures in force. We are not debating the principles of the bill in this process. I want to make it clear that my government stands behind the basic principles proclaimed in the bill itself.

I am also proceeding immediately with some administrative changes within my ministry to ensure prompt and effective response in dealing with spills in this province. I am establishing a spills reporting centre, which will operate 24 hours a day, with a single reporting number for all spills anywhere in the province. This office will assess the spill and arrange an immediate investigation by ministry staff or other responsible agency.

In the interim, while this office is being set up, I am providing police forces with direct access to response teams through the emergency response number provided under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act. All this is on a tight

timetable, which reflects my sense of urgency and the importance I attach to this issue.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mr. F. S. Miller: I wish to address a question to the Minister of Education. We have been watching with great interest over the past day or so as Bill 30 came forward, and I want to know one thing: If the court rules that the bill is unconstitutional, will the minister give an absolute guarantee that the funding will continue and that he will not backtrack on his commitment?

Hon. Mr. Conway: I want to make it very clear that this government, while it believes Bill 30 is appropriate and constitutional, will take whatever direction the Ontario Court of Appeal might provide when it makes its ruling. We hope that will be some time later this fall.

Mr. F. S. Miller: I have some trouble with that answer. I have a quotation from the Premier (Mr. Peterson). It makes me wonder who is making the decisions over there. Here is the quotation: "It is going to happen. If the courts find full funding to be unconstitutional, then the province will change the law or push for an amendment to the Charter of Rights."

Is that the minister's position? Is that the Premier's position? Is it the party's position? What is the government's position?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Our position is that we want to discharge our responsibility in making good the commitment that has been unanimously agreed to by this and the previous Legislative Assembly. We will take under advisement whatever the court tells us.

Quite frankly, as the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) has indicated to me on a number of occasions, we expect this to be approved and rendered valid by the Court of Appeal. But if one wants to get into hypotheticals, there is a whole range of hypothetical situations. I do not and cannot at this time canvass all of them. Very clearly, this is a law-abiding government and it will take under advisement and do what the Court of Appeal suggests has to be done.

Mr. Rae: If we could change the rules, I would address a supplementary to the Attorney General. I cannot, so I will ask the Minister of Education why the government is ignoring the fact that in all likelihood there will be an appeal from the Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

I would have thought the government would at least leave open this possibility. Surely it wants to wait for the highest court in the land to speak on the question of the constitutionality of a change of this kind before it makes the kinds of statements that have just been made by the Minister of Education.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, the leader of the third party has indicated an interest in having the view of the Attorney General. I would, with your permission, refer that supplementary to the Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I do not think there is any inconsistency between the question and the answer given by the Minister of Education. If the Court of Appeal should decide the bill is unconstitutional and unamendable, I would anticipate this government would not submit it for passage. But we will reserve our right, as all parties to the reference will reserve their rights, to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. That is the court that ultimately will decide this question.

10:20 p.m.

Mr. Pope: My supplementary is to the Minister of Education. The minister has initiated this reference. He knows it is going to take at least three years, with an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. He has thrown this issue into total confusion by referring it to the courts when the Premier said clearly six weeks ago that it was going to happen, that he was going to amend the legislation or the Charter of Rights and that there would be funding.

Am I to take it that he is not guaranteeing the students, parents and teachers of this province that he will continue the funding?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The parents, teachers and trustees in the Roman Catholic school system should be under no wrong impression about our commitment to them in this connection. I hope they ought not to be under any confusion about the position and the commitment of the honourable members in the loyal opposition of the Conservative Party in this connection as well.

Quite clearly, we will not act in a way that disregards the court. I want to make it clear that we decided upon the court reference because it was obvious that there were some people in the community who were going to take this matter to court. Because we feel very strongly that the matter, which we believe to be constitutional, will be so found, we have made the reference in that connection.

I want to reiterate that we feel a very strong commitment to the young people who have acted in good faith on the basis of a three-party commitment. To the very best of our ability, those young people now moving into Catholic education will be provided for.

Mr. F. S. Miller: What he is saying, of course, is that he is running it, not his leader.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. F. S. Miller: I have a question of the Premier. He has told his Minister of Health (Mr. Elston) that he is to discuss extra billing with the Ontario Medical Association. Are the Premier's instructions to him that he is to ban extra billing at any cost, in any event, or is he to discuss some options? Which is it?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is very clear. We are opposed to extra billing. We have instructed the minister to have discussions with the OMA and other interested parties to work out an effective route. The Minister of Health will be aware that a number of other provinces have dealt with this issue and in some of those provinces they have had courage and leadership. They were not just a captive of one group, but they have moved sensibly to comply with the provisions of the Canada Health Act.

We are not anxious to sit by and lose \$50 million a year under the Canada Health Act transfers, nor do we believe that extra billing is appropriate. Therefore, we are going to work out a sensitive system that is respectful of the rights of our medical profession, for which we have a very high respect, and we are going to work it out in consultation. That is our approach; that is the style of government we have.

Mr. Speaker: The member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

[Applause]

An hon. member: The member is popular.

Mr. Grossman: Where were you when I needed you?

Mr. Breaugh: We were here.

Mr. Grossman: Among the options that I understand are going to be discussed, I would like to know from the Premier specifically whether those options will or will not include any discussion over whether some doctors in Ontario will be permitted to continue to extra-bill for any length of time under any circumstances? Will that option be discussed or not?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I cannot tell the member today all the options that are going to be discussed.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Look, we will discuss a whole range of options, but those members know where we stand; we do not know where they stand. With great respect, that is a silly question.

We are going to discuss in a sensitive way all of the things that are available. We are opposed to extra billing. There are a number of things that have to be worked out with respect to research and so on. Members opposite know where we stand. We are not afraid to make decisions, unlike my friend opposite, who runs away from all of it.

Mr. Bennett: Make one today.

Mr. Grossman: They are going to have a green paper on it.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: Wait for it. It is nice to see the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman). It is nice to have a House leader here again.

Mr. Speaker: It would also be nice to get a supplementary question.

Mr. Rae: I am sure the government will have studied the number of approaches taken in other provinces. I hope the Premier will look at the arbitration procedures worked out in Nova Scotia, the agreements that have been arrived at in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and realize that there are Tory provincial governments right across this country that have finally come to terms with one of the realities of the 20th century, which is that we have a publicly funded, universally accessible, medical insurance plan in this country, in which we would like and expect the medical profession to be participants in a fair and just system of compensation for the profession as well as for other people.

Is the Premier looking at those various schemes? Is he putting those particular options, which get rid of extra billing and provide fairness for the medical profession, before its representatives in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The answer to the question is a very clear yes. There are a number of options available, as the leader of the New Democratic Party knows. I am sure my friend opposite knows this as well. We want to work in a sensitive and humane way.

We are opposed to extra billing; let there be no mistake about that. But there are a number of options, and we are going to do it as effectively as we can, with consultation with the medical profession. Those meetings have already started. I hope we will have meaningful discussions in the near term and have something to present to this

House this fall. That is our intention and that is the time line to which the minister is working at the moment.

Mr. Grossman: As House leader, it is nice to be back and it is nice to have an opposition party in the House. In this case it is the Progressive Conservative Party. I remember when it used to be the New Democratic Party.

Mr. McClellan: Let us hear it for extra billing. Stand up for it.

Mr. Grossman: The Liberal rump is complaining over there.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Was your question, "Are you aware?"

Mr. Grossman: In the absence of an NDP question trying to nail down how many doctors will be permitted to extra-bill, I should like to-

Mr. McClellan: It is your issue. You can have it.

Mr. Grossman: They liked it better when I was not back.

Pursuant to the supplementary question of the NDP, if the Premier is going to discuss arbitration, I presume he is going to discuss other adjustments to the fee schedule for Ontario doctors. Can he assure this House the adjustment in the fee schedule, which obviously he will discuss with the OMA, is not going to amount to more than the \$50 million he is fighting to reclaim from the federal government? Can he give a firm commitment to this House that he is going to save that \$50 million, or is he going to entertain spending more than \$50 million in adjustments to the fee schedule?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: To my honourable friend, who represents the opposition not only in this House but in his own party, I will say I am not going to stand in this House and give guarantees of anything in this regard right now. It would be most foolish to do so. Had he been sitting over here, the member would not have done that either. We are going in with an open mind, a spirit of generosity and with our principles intact, and we expect results. That is what the member will see.

10:30 a.m.

ANNUAL REPORT, OMBUDSMAN

Mr. Rae: I have a question for the Premier arising out of the Ombudsman's report yesterday. I am sure he will be aware that the report lays out 19 cases in which the Ombudsman received no satisfactory response from the government. I would like to ask him whether he would be willing, as a matter of basic practice, to

reconsider each of those cases on an independent assessment, based on the very strong grounds put forward by the Ombudsman, ranging from compensation for home owners, to people who feel they have been unjustly dismissed from the public service, to cases involving the Ontario health insurance plan and to many, many cases involving the Workers' Compensation Board.

Will the Premier now be prepared to open each one of those cases and have an independent review by the executive council on the decisions

taken with regard to those cases?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I have not had an opportunity to review that report in detail, but I am generally aware of some of the suggestions of the Ombudsman.

I have been thinking about that in the last little while, and perhaps the member's approach is a good one. Another approach would be to put that immediately into the hands of the select committee on the Ombudsman. As the member knows, we are dedicated to making the committees of this House work effectively and well. It may be a legitimate role for the Ombudsman's committee, which is going to have to arbitrate some of these things and build more effective relationships between the Office of the Ombudsman and the WCB.

That is one suggestion I am prepared to put forward. I will discuss it with all members of this House. If they have better ideas, then I am certainly determined to get justice in these matters.

Mr. Rae: The difficulty is that in many cases the Ombudsman's committee has spoken on certain matters and there still has been no response from the administration or the response has still been negative.

I would like to ask the Premier, particularly with respect to the Workers' Compensation Board where there are 11 cases involving what the Ombudsman describes as "systemic problems"—not simply examples of individual injustices—to deal specifically with the problem the Ombudsman refers to on many occasions which is the fact that the board has consistently accepted the advice of its own hired doctors as opposed to independent consultants who are advising particular claimants before the board.

That is the first problem.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the question has been asked.

Mr. Rae: Will the Premier look at that particular problem with respect to the Workers' Compensation Board? Will he deal with it directly since time is awasting on this issue?

Some of these cases have been floundering within the bureaucracy for four and five years and people still have not had justice done because the government has refused to respond to the Ombudsman.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I certainly have no problem looking at doing what we can do under our jurisdiction; I am happy to do that. Perhaps the structural problems can be addressed in other ways as well. Maybe we will have to look at that through the Workers' Compensation Act and/or the Ombudsman's committee in order to build that better relationship. Perhaps it is something we can work on mutually at the same time. I will have no problem reviewing that, when I have a chance to look at the report, and instructing our officials to move with dispatch on those structural problems the member speaks to, to make for easier communication and quicker and speedier justice.

Mr. Runciman: I am wondering whether the Premier might address a specific question in regard to the Office of the Ombudsman, dealing with the operation of the office and the continuance of the operation of that office. I am basing the question on the position taken by the Treasurer, the member for Brant-Oxford Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), in years gone by, where he is on the record as indicating that the office is really redundant, a waste of taxpayers' dollars and should be abolished. In view of the fact that this member is now the Treasurer, what position does the Premier take on the continued operation of the office?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not recall those precise remarks. I do know there were certain discussions in this House on various occasions about the extravagance of certain occupants of the office and certain suggestions on how to make it more effective, lean and efficient. That being said, we will not be eliminating the Office of the Ombudsman.

Mr. Rae: The Premier will know that the process specifically laid out in the act is that the reports of the Ombudsman go to the Premier. What I would like to suggest to the Premier and urge him to do as quickly as possible—

Mr. Speaker: Or you would like to ask the Premier.

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask him whether he will meet with the Ombudsman as soon as possible to discuss the logjam of cases, which is a very real problem affecting thousands of people in the province. In particular, will he discuss the ways in which government can move quickly,

without need for legislation, in terms of a change of administrative practice at the board level, the commission level, right through the public sector in order to remedy some of these cases which have been building up for so long?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I certainly have no problem at all in addressing those specific injustices. I am also concerned about developing a system that does not create those problems again. I think if we work on both fronts, and I will do that and follow up on the member's suggestion, the members of this House can work to build a system that does not create these problems in the future.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Rae: I have another question for the Premier. I listened with interest to the statement made by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Wrye) today. Can the Premier explain why the government, in its draft proposals or first-reading proposals, makes no mention of indexation of pension benefits for injured workers?

Given the events that have taken place in Ottawa over the last two months, during which time we have all come to terms with the importance of and the overwhelming public support for indexing, which the Premier mentioned in his speech a couple of days ago, I am amazed that it is not contained in this first chance to deal with Workers' Compensation Board benefits.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The reality of the situation is that under our proposals the benefits will increase more than they would through indexation. Inflation is running at a three per cent level. Our bill today will increase those benefit levels by five per cent, so that in the immediate short term there is an increase in compensation beyond inflation.

In addition, the minister will be working in consultation with his officials on the question of indexation. It is a complicated issue. We will be consulting with the various players, the various people who are concerned about the issue. We did not want to hold up the flow of benefits applicable as of July 1. Because of the haste of some of the things we have had to do in this House, we moved immediately and did not want to see anything hung up.

Mr. Rae: Nobody wants to see anything hung up. The Premier will know that the rate of level of increase of benefits over the last 11 years has been behind that of the consumer price index. It has not kept up.

The present Minister of Labour said on June 20, 1984, when we were discussing the last annual increase: "I want to raise two issues with the minister. The first is the lack of automatic indexing. I, for one, cannot understand why we have to go through this same charade every June."

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary, please.

Mr. Rae: There has been an overwhelming consensus that it is time to move on the indexation question. It is not an enormously complex matter. Either the government chooses to do it or it does not so choose.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary question.

Mr. Rae: Why not give that sense of security and that ability to keep up with inflation to workers who have lost that right because of what is happening to their wages?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member is aware that every year at this time we go through this same exercise. I am very much aware of that. Here we are on July 5 dealing with benefits retroactively, at least for the last few days. We have been under a time pressure. We had to make a decision whether to move immediately and give a relatively generous amount, given the current inflation rate, and consider the structural problems later. That is the decision we made.

We will be addressing the matter of indexation. It is something we happen to believe in. I say to the honourable leader, with respect, it is not as simple as all that. I want to make sure it fits into the overall context. I hope some time in the not-too-distant future we will have a bill to deal with this in perpetuity. Then we will not need the discussions we all remember having every year at this time, or the time pressure that has been used in the past to get things through that were not always as well thought out as they should have been. That is our intention.

Mr. Elgie: Without indicating in any way that we will not support what the minister is proposing, because it is my present intention, having reviewed his statement briefly, that we will be, I would point out that he mentions consistently throughout his statement that this increase meets the test of affordability, that it is cost-effective and that all these things are of great concern to him.

I am directing this to the Premier, but if he wishes to redirect to the minister, I will be pleased to have that happen. Why did the minister not tell us the actual cost that would be involved in this so the public might know that and know what it means in terms of rate assessment

increases for individuals and groups within the WCB program?

10:40 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: As the honourable member knows, the cost for the additional money for spouses and other dependants is fairly minimal. Let me deal with that first. I believe it will add some \$11 million to the board's liability.

I do not want to mislead the member with exact figures, but the major announcement is the cost of the pensions. The member will know the former government put in place a five-per-cent increase in April 1985 under section 133 of Bill 101. Most of those who are on temporary benefits have been taken care of. In fact, the five per cent gets us in line for all injured workers.

I believe the overall cost for those receiving permanent pensions is in the \$170-million range over a lifetime in terms of the board's liability; but the view of the ministry, and I believe the view of the board, is that it is reasonably affordable.

Mr. Rae: I can advise the Premier that this indexing has not been too complicated for British Columbia which moved in 1966, for Quebec which did it in 1974, for Nova Scotia which did it in 1974 and for the Yukon which did it in 1975.

It has been discussed. The ministry is aware of it and has had it available as an option for years. Both opposition parties raised it consistently throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s. I do not know what the hangup is. It would be an enormously important gesture to the injured workers of this province to let them see there was going to be a change in practice along with the change in government with respect to the annual cap-in-hand exercise.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Why not change the annual cap-inhand exercise and move to indexing on a quarterly basis to ensure that workers would not have to keep coming back, depending on the largess of government, but instead could have it as a matter of right every three months? That is what we should have in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I can only repeat to the honourable leader that in eight days we had certain decisions to make and we moved immediately on that one. It is our intention in this and in many other matters not to be, in a sense, dictatorial, but rather to share legislative proposals with the members of the opposition and the members of the client groups affected. We will be having discussions with employers and employee groups on this system to make sure it is

as fair as possible. Given the time frame, we decided to move immediately and not let that be hung up.

I want to make it clear that it is our intention to move in those directions. We will welcome the member's advice and the experience of other provinces in developing the most sensitive legislation to prevent exactly the problems the member has spoken about.

CENSORSHIP

Mrs. Marland: My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, in view of the minister's personal statements recently on the subject of censorship. In particular, he is quoted as saying, "It's difficult to start tampering with artistic endeavours." He also commented on the responsibility of the Ontario Film Review Board. I note his comments are in conflict with the public position of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) on censorship in the past.

Has the minister read the elimination reports that are published for the public monthly by the Ontario Film Review Board? They describe such things as the view of a skull being slit and a woman torn apart.

Mr. Speaker: That was a good question—has he read it?

Mrs. Marland: Has the minister read those reports? For the sake of the House, I will not continue to read them because I would like everybody to be able to eat his or her lunch. Has he seen the out-takes film at the review board office and has he met with the chairman of the Ontario Film Review Board yet to discuss either the film or those reports?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Several questions were presented and several of the answers are no, but I should say to the honourable member that just before I entered the House I had a conversation with Mary Brown about the elimination reports. They are given on a regular basis and I have not seen the most recent one.

My position and my statement are not at all inconsistent with those of my leader. What we are talking about is a situation where there is a difference between tampering with artistic endeavours and protecting the public. There is no question in our minds. If the member saw my statement, she will see that I was consistent. I think we have a responsibility and what we are talking about are areas of personal judgement and areas of erotica versus the new pornography.

There is no question in my mind that some of the out-takes of film the member is talking about are areas of grave concern. I am certainly mindful of the concern of the public. We will be looking at the situation and all I was suggesting is that there is obviously concern on both sides of the line. It is not an easy question and there are no easy answers. We will be reviewing it with that in mind; that was the result of my statement.

Mrs. Marland: The minister is quoted as saying: "There is no such thing as an obscene book, but one either well written or poorly written." I have to wonder if he would have said that if he had seen the book which described in detail the brutal sexual attack and murder of a 16-year-old girl in Mississauga two years ago, had that 16-year-old girl been his daughter. This book described in full-colour detail everything that happened to this girl, and this book was found in the home of the murderer. He is talking about the Ontario Film Review Board. He says he wonders whether a few should make the decisions for the majority. I have to ask the minister if a film review board, which is made up of 40 members from around this province, is less representative than a jury of 12 in a criminal court.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The agency for which I have a responsibility is a film agency and does not deal with books. The comment I made about the book is a very basic one, and if I could take a moment, I would like to elaborate on that.

When we talk about the written word, the written word is man's tool and there is nothing that man can conceive in just the position of letters that is obscene. It may not be acceptable on certain levels, but it is either well written or poorly written. I am not talking about the graphic depiction of photographs or things of that kind. That is not my opinion—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: –that is an opinion which is well founded. To address the situation about the 40 members–

Mr. Speaker: Briefly, I hope.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: —I am sure the member will know that when movies are reviewed they are not reviewed by 40 members; they are reviewed by panels of four and five members who are drawn from that overall panel of 40. It is quite possible that those four or five members, depending on their particular bent, can have an undue influence. All I am suggesting is that we are going to take a look at it.

PCB DESTRUCTION

Mrs. Grier: My question is to the Minister of the Environment and it concerns the report of the

Commission on the Regulatory Control of Mobile PCB Destruction Facilities which I know the minister received on Friday.

Does the minister share the concern of this party, and of some of the citizen groups who have already commented on that report, about the fact that the report does not recommend any kind of public hearing or environmental hearing prior to the location of one of these mobile units at a specific spot?

10:50 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I want to thank the member for the question. I found the report to be an extremely interesting one, and I am pleased the previous minister took the opportunity to appoint this commission so that all concerned could make their views known.

In respect to the specific question the member asks, this government will want to ensure there is appropriate consultation, particularly in the initial stages, to ensure that whatever kind of operation might take place with regard to the destruction of polychlorinated biphenyls we would have the very best of technical and scientific advice available to us before there would be movement. Particularly, I think, the member's concern and that of the general community has been with those PCBs considered to be high level as opposed to others where the technology is less controversial.

We intend to have a consultative process. I am unable to say at this time what that specific process will be, but I share the member's concern to have that kind of consultation in each of the cases.

Mrs. Grier: I would like to hear from the minister, perhaps, a broader definition of his understanding of the term "consultation." As we understand the recommendation, there is provision for notification of people when a site has been selected. Would the minister not agree that, regardless of the level of PCBs, each location, and each operation of this facility, might be different? Would he not agree that the citizenry, as well as those experts on the whole question, ought to be consulted and given an opportunity to have their inputs before a site is decided upon?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I think the member is correct in assuming a suitable consultative process must be found in each of the circumstances. The first process to which I made reference concerns the actual procedures to be used in the burning. I realize there are two separate questions to deal with and that is one of them. I think we must have an ultimate assurance it is a technology acceptable to everyone.

Second, as to specific sites, I think there has to be some consultative process there as well. I am attempting to determine with my officials, and in consultation with environmental groups and others who are interested, just what that will be. We all recognize there is a genuine problem in this province with PCBs, with 19 major locations and many others.

Mr. Brandt: In the light of the comments made by the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) on a number of occasions with respect to the safety of the equipment being proposed for the disposal of PCBs, could the minister give this House an assurance that he is completely, totally and unalterably satisfied that the equipment being proposed for that purpose is, in fact, safe to the best of his knowledge?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Naturally, the member will understand, that is what a Minister of the Environment would like to determine. In consultation with the officials of the ministry and others who are very knowledgeable in the technical area as well as those who have specific environmental concerns, I will be making that determination. Of course, I would want to ensure that would be the case before there is any destruction of the level-1 PCBs.

Mr. Elgie: Will the minister check with the member for Parkdale first and make sure he agrees?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I will have the widest consultation.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I understand the Minister of Transportation and Communications has a reply to a question previously asked by the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart). I am sure, after yesterday, it will be very brief.

TELEPHONE RATES

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Very briefly, I have a response to the question raised by the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) on Tuesday regarding the application by CNCP Telecommunications to compete in providing long-distance service, and the potential impact on local telephone rates.

Let me say at the outset that I approach telecommunications policy questions with goals of universal access at affordable rates, increasing the efficiency of the network and development of a system that supports the economic growth of this province.

There is considerable confusion and misinformation today about telecommunications policy

in general, and specifically about CNCP's application to provide long-distance service.

Last year, CNCP applied to compete with Bell Canada and BC Tel in providing long-distance or message-toll service in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia. In response to that application, Bell Canada proposed to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission that telephone rates should be restructured or rebalanced before competition was allowed.

In its final argument to the CRTC, Ontario stated it did not support Bell's rates rebalancing proposal. I would like to remind the member, the former government only took that position against increased local rates after the then Leader of the Opposition, now the Premier (Mr. Peterson), stated in this House he was asking the former minister, and I quote, "to stand up with his colleagues on behalf of the telephone consumers of this province and say he will stand four-square against that position."

While not supporting rate rebalancing, the government of Ontario expressed support for CNCP's application for competition.

Mr. Speaker: Point of order.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: It is two minutes long, if I could be allowed to continue, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: On a point of order: Mr. Speaker, I brought this to your attention yesterday and I must do so again. This is a statement and not an answer to a question.

Mr. Speaker: I again say the honourable member has made a very good point of order. I would ask that we add a minute to the question period and I will ask the minister to make the statement on Monday. I think we have not really been following the rules of the House.

BILINGUALISM

Mr. Baetz: An Ottawa Citizen June 27 headline read: "Grandmaître to Press for Official Bilingualism." I also quote his follow-up comments in the Citizen: "Grandmaître says he has the support of Premier David Peterson, who said during the campaign he was personally in favour of official bilingualism for Ontario."

These are very clear statements by the minister responsible for francophone affairs. Would the Premier tell us whether the obvious determination to press for official bilingualism accurately reflects the present government's official position and its scale of priorities?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I would be happy to discuss this issue with the member. He will know

my colleague who is in charge of francophone issues feels very strongly about these issues. It is one of the things—

Mr. F. S. Miller: He is in cabinet.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Of course, he is in the cabinet-and he feels very strongly about these issues.

I said publicly some years ago that at some time I would like to see this province officially bilingual.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Of course I have said that and it is very clear. The member's leader will be aware of that because he ran around this province during the campaign pointing that out to everybody and trying to elicit response from it—but the member can make his own judgement about his leader's behaviour on this matter.

My intentions and my personal desires are quite clear. I have talked about what we have to do in the short term and in the long term. The first job is adequate provision of francophone services. Members may recall we unanimously passed in this House a bill of my former colleague Albert Roy about the creation of a French-language services commission. All members of this House participated in the debate on this. In personal terms, it was probably the best debate I have ever seen in this House.

Many generous Conservatives—government members then—were standing up, speaking out and reaching out about the kind of things we had to do to build tolerance and respect in this province. It would have put in statutory form something that has been happening—

Mr. Barlow: Answer the question.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Would that member mind settling down for just a little? This is an important question his friend has asked. If he does not want an answer, that is fine.

Interjections.

Mr. Baetz: As a supplementary, I would please ask the Premier once again to try, in a very forthright, specific way, to answer the question on official bilingualism.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I will be happy to discuss it. I said very specifically we would like to recommence with a bill to establish a Frenchlanguage services commission that would analyse the francophone services across this province on the basis of objective need.

These services should not be dolloped out on the basis of political whim. They should not just be handed out in francophone press releases while not going out in anglophone press releases. There should be no playing two sides against the middle or trying to stir up people in some of the small communities that may not be feeling so happy about the situation. Rather, they should be provided on the basis of building on the leadership instincts we hope every person has in this House.

11 a.m.

My friend will be aware, because he is a sensitive man, of how divisive religious, linguistic and cultural issues can be in this province. He will be aware that some politicians choose to use those unscrupulously for their own purposes while others try to build. He will be aware of that because the history of this country is filled with those kinds of responses.

What I am saying to him is that we are going to start with that approach. We are going to build on what the former government already commenced, such as statutory protection for courts and the right to education and French governance. Those are good starts. Ultimately they will see themselves enshrined in the law at both levels. That is our approach. We want to be specific about it. That is what I talked about 20 or 100 times during our campaign and I am happy to repeat it in this House. My position is extremely clear.

M. Rae: Question supplémentaire pour le premier ministre. Est-ce que je vous comprends bien que vous nous dites aujourd'hui que c'est la position du gouvernement que vous allez commencer avec une loi cadre sur la question des services à la communauté francophone et c'est la question de la loi cadre qui garantira les services en français aux régions et aux personnes spécifiques qui sera la première étape envers la reconnaissance des droits des francophones dans la province?

M. Peterson: La première étape pour ce gouvernement sera la création d'une commission pour les services francophones ici en Ontario. Et ça va être une commission indépendante qui va étudier tous les services partout dans cette province et où il y aurait les besoins vrais on va garantir les services dans ces circonstances. Après ça on va enchâsser dans les droits, dans les statuts de cette province, dans les projets de loi ici et aussi j'espère enchâsser dans la constitution les droits des francophones ici en Ontario. C'est la première étape, vous comprenez, je suis sûr, et nous affirmons clairement que nous voulons faire de vrais progrès sur cette question.

MINISTRY REGIONAL OFFICES

Mr. Wildman: Will the Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines clarify the comments he was

quoted as making in the Kapuskasing Northern Times on May 29 and June 19 to the effect that he would like to change the ministry headquarters in northeastern Ontario away from Sault Ste. Marie and that he would like to see the ministry split into smaller administrative regions instead of the two northeastern and northwestern main offices, indicating there would not be a concentration of ministry staff in Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I do not know why the honourable member reads that Kapuskasing paper. I do not read it. Does the member know who the owner of that paper is?

I want to reassure the member for Algoma that I never said I would relocate the regional office. I said that in our program we will form smaller regional offices and Timmins will be a centre for the northeast to take care of the Highway 11 corridor and Highway 101.

I never said I would be closing Kenora. The office would have been closer, but what is done is done. At that time the minister did not listen to us, but the mayors at that time—I am talking about 10 years ago—were saying Timmins should be one centre and Dryden should be the other centre, but the minister decided otherwise and we will not change that.

Timmins will be a centre and we are going to move some people there. It will not be 200; it will be a few. The office in Sault Ste. Marie will stay.

Mr. Wildman: I am sure the minister would not want to give the impression that the former member for Cochrane North would in any way influence the editorial policy of the Kapuskasing Northern Times.

For the sake of the members of his ministry staff who have been alarmed by these quotations or misquotations in that newspaper, will the minister indicate how many staff might be moved from Ste. Sault Marie and Sudbury and how these smaller administrative units would work to ensure his ministry serves the people of northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I met with those staff members and told them exactly what I felt.

Mr. Timbrell: And they quit.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: No; they have not quit yet.

Mr. Timbrell: Have you been in your office yet today? Check the mail.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I am getting more applications.

I assured them they will be consulted because we are an open government. I will not do anything to make them lose morale because I need them to work together. At first they were discouraged because of what was reported in the newspaper, but I met with them last week, and the junior people this week, to assure them it will not happen and everybody is going to have a job. There are people who want to move; some have already said it was a good idea to move some people to Timmins.

Mr. Pope: I have a supplementary for the minister—

Interjections.

Mr. Pope: The members to the left had better worry about what the people up north are saying about them.

I wish to ask the Minister of Northern Affairs whether it is his intention to have a new government-wide policy involving all ministries which will change the regional offices in northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I have told him twice, and I am going to repeat it again, about regional offices. The members opposite are the ones who put them there and I will not change them. However, there will be more emphase mis sur le développement, non pas seulement les petits cadeaux que tu as donnés à tout le monde.

We need development in the northeast—in the honourable member's town—in the ridings of Cochrane South and Sault Ste. Marie. There are a few other ridings with lots of suffering and unemployment among youth and old people. That is where we are going to concentrate our efforts, on rural employment.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. J. M. Johnson: My question is to the Premier regarding the tornado disaster of May 31. Many of my municipalities—townships as well as the counties of Wellington and Dufferin—are quite concerned about the financial impact on their communities. Will the Premier advise his cabinet as to the special needs of these municipalities?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I know of the honourable member's great concern. He was on the site of the tornado the day after it struck and has been very active. I hope to have his ongoing support and help in dealing with these matters.

The former Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell), also acted quickly and, in my view, great government leadership was provided. A very quick response was made by the previous government. We intend to continue to honour all those commitments.

The member's point is well taken. There are a number of special needs that do not necessarily fall into neat little categories. We have to be most sensitive in rebuilding these communities. I had a conversation with the mayor of Barrie a few days ago. I assured him, as I assure the member, we will be most sensitive in that regard. When the member has specific suggestions, as I know he does and will, I hope he will share them with our minister in co-ordinating those matters.

The rebuilding that has gone on already is remarkable. It is a testament to the courage and farsightedness of the people of this great province. I thank the member for his very fine leadership in this matter.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I thank the Premier. I would like the Premier's permission to notify the municipalities that if they will substantiate their specific needs, the Premier will notify the ministries, particularly the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, to provide the assistance that will be needed. Is that in order?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Yes. Perhaps it would be a good idea to arrange an immediate meeting between the member and the minister responsible to draft that and to work together on these matters, as we want to do, as well as with representatives of the New Democratic Party and whoever the area's official representatives are. That would be the approach I would prefer to follow. Perhaps the former minister has some ideas; I would welcome those as well.

11:10 a.m.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

Mr. Philip: I have a question of the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet on the assumption that she is responsible for the government's announced review of advertising.

I have supplied the minister with a very large, one-page advertisement by Suncor, a company in which the taxpayers of Ontario have a massive investment. It is an advertisement for a sweep-stakes program. Is the minister aware of this massive advertising program? Does she consider the expenditure of moneys in this frivolous manner is in any way in conflict with the government's announced program of a cut in current advertising?

Hon. Ms. Caplan: I am very pleased to respond to the question with the answer that, as the honourable member knows, Suncor and Suncoo are private and independent companies. This government is the inheritor of a minor share. Our position on the ownership in Suncor is clear

and has been addressed by the Premier (Mr. Peterson). These companies would not in any way be covered by our freeze on advertising contracts or the review which the Management Board has undertaken. The Premier has been very clear in that statement as regards our policy on all advertising from this point on.

Mr. Philip: Until the government decides what kind of loss it is prepared to take on Suncor, would the minister not agree the government should use its influence and leverage on the board of directors of that company to ensure that this kind of spending of millions of dollars on advertising, which is not in the best interest of the consumers, would be better directed at the reduction of the price of gasoline at the pumps?

Hon. Ms. Caplan: As a minor shareholder, we will certainly take that under advisement and consideration to see what influence can be brought to bear.

Mr. Grossman: On this very interesting topic, given the historical position of the then Leader of the Opposition, now the Premier, in his advice that advertising contracts should be given out without any reflection of political bias whatsoever, can the Chairman of Management Board assure us that those advertising contracts currently in existence will be allowed to stay with the companies that won them in the fair and open tender—

Interjections.

Mr. Grossman: I will wait until the minister gets the answer. Did the minister get that?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think that was a question.

Mr. Grossman: No. It is not a complete question. It was a comment.

Can the minister assure us that upon cancellation or termination of any of those contracts we will not see any barriers or walls to non-Liberal-Party ad agencies and we will not find Liberal ad agencies taking over some of the accounts quickly?

Hon. Ms. Caplan: If the honourable member's concern is whether we care who has the contract for his future campaigns, leadership or otherwise, and whether we are concerned about Mr. Atkins's or Mr. Segal's future with him, frankly, we are not.

As Chairman of the Management Board, I will be following closely the directions of the Premier in the review of all tendering procedures. His indication to this House in his statement regarding the freeze on all advertising contracts is clear.

LIQUOR LICENSEES

Mr. Runciman: I am sure the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is familiar with some comments made in April 1985 by the leader of his party that Liquor Licence Board of Ontario inspectors were pressuring liquor licensees to contribute to the Progressive Conservative Party. Is the minister prepared to back up those allegations with facts, launch an investigation or apologize? Which will it be?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am planning to meet with the boards of both the LLBO and the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. I will take a look at their operational procedures, and when I have done that I will be delighted to reply to the honourable member's question.

Mr. Runciman: That is not an adequate response.

Is the minister not aware of reports published in the Toronto Star and the Globe and Mail, two towering examples of accuracy in journalism? I am sure the Premier (Mr. Peterson) would go along with that assessment. For example, on April 19 the Globe quoted the now Premier as saying the inspectors were exerting subtle and implied pressure on licensed establishments. On April 21, his beloved Toronto Star reported he charged that the provincial government exercised subtle intimidation in its dealings with licence holders.

Is the minister going to leave that sort of cloud, that kind of red haze, hanging over the inspectors who work for his ministry? He has to deal with it.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: What we hope to do is to clear all the haze that has been covering that sphere of operation.

MOTION

COMMITTEE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Elston moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Riddell, that the standing committee on social development be authorized to meet in the afternoon of Monday, July 8, 1985.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Sweeney, first reading of Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

Motion agreed to.

11:20 a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS REDISTRIBUTION

Hon. Mr. Elston moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Nixon, seconded by Hon. Ms. Caplan, resolution 4:

That the House consider motions 1 to 36 standing in Orders and Notices and further notices filed with the Clerk of the assembly relating to the provisions of the Report upon the Redistribution of Ontario into Electoral Districts, such further notices to be published in the notice paper on a day prior to the conclusion of the debate on this resolution, and notwithstanding its previous terms of reference, the commission is hereby authorized to give consideration to all motions so filed and to all submissions reported in Hansard during the discussion of this resolution

Hon. Mr. Elston: We have in front of us this morning a resolution that deals with a question of equal concern to all three parties represented in the Legislative Assembly. The question deals with the redistribution of ridings. There are very numerous and specific suggestions set out in notices of motion 1 through 36 dealing with specific ridings. These notices have been signed by a number of members from all across the province.

These members are representing in a nonpartisan way the concerns they have fielded from their individual constituents about the successful representation of those various and sundry areas right across the province. It seems to me that we as legislators must take a great deal of time and concern in discussing this resolution and dealing with the motions so filed.

We have gone through a rather lengthy process based upon a regular review of the representative capabilities of the province. We have to consider, in the light of the deliberations of the appointed commission, the length of time that has been taken to review the demographics, the changes that have been reflected as a result of the growth of government and other items, in having come to a resolution by making an initial report to us.

All members here know that the initial report was reviewed in some detail by members here and by each of the parties. We were then provided ample opportunity to have public input–I was represented with members of my constituency both in the great city of Kitchener and in the great city of Barrie–to deal in a public way and allow all parts of our constituencies to

represent themselves in front of the commission and to speak eloquently about the need either to retain or deal in specific ways with the areas of the province.

In many ways the concerns expressed were not limited to parochial, if I may describe them that way, concerns of individuals. In a large way there was a degree of concern expressed about various communities in a regional sense; for instance, the southwestern Ontario regional concerns. We also dealt with the concerns of, and made some provision in the initial motion put to this House to deal with representation in, northern Ontario. They deal to a large extent with the difficulties of transportation and the need to provide very specific and essential services in the great northland of this province.

We have gone through that process and we now have received a report from the commissioners that satisfies some people but does not satisfy others. For some others there is still no great concern. However, we do have notices of motion 1 through 36, as I indicated, which require us as a Legislative Assembly to take them seriously and

consider them over a length of time.

The motion we have before us is to allow that discussion to carry on. In one way or another I think we will be doing a great service to the constituents of the whole province if we discuss in this open forum the whole question of redistribution. The process must not only be open but must appear to be open. That is essential to any process with which this government is going to be dealing in the days of its mandate just begun.

For my part, as a member whose riding apparently would disappear under the redistribution formula, there is a concern. I admit that fully and to everyone who starts to smile. I do not think there are any of us who want to see in any sense an area or a constituency in this province underrepresented in respect to the importance of that constituency to the welfare and livelihood of

the province.

My concerns have been expressed publicly in Barrie. I had the opportunity of sitting in on some discussions that were undertaken in Kitchener and I reviewed those. The agricultural community of this great province expressed a concern that the erosion of representation is causing some difficulty with regard to dealing with the development of policy and the proposals for the government of the day.

In many cases there is a lack of government presence in the area-a lack of official government offices. Because of the type of representa-

tion that has developed in those areas, I think the member fills a very specific and precise role in addition to that of legislator. In other words, he is doing an awful lot of the constituent inquiries and almost acts as an ombudsman. From that standpoint, where there is underrepresentation of government offices, it is a function that is indispensable to the overall program which is set before a prospective member or a member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in those areas.

I think examples are legion of the style of what has become described partly as a populist endeavour on the part of some of the members from the outlying areas. I think we all agree there has to be some consideration given to preserve that style of representation in this Legislative

Assembly.

If we consider the importance of this discussion to be made fully and in a public sense, I think those items ought to be discussed openly in this legislative forum. Then we can direct certain deliberations for the commission to study. In the course of our debate we may well end up with some options we were not faced with originally.

We will leave it to the discussions of the day to examine various possibilities with respect to very specific ridings. My comments are made partly specifically, but more in a general sense, when I say we have an obligation as members to have a full and ongoing discussion of this essential question of representation. There is always the basis of our whole democratic society, the representation-by-population issue, and that also ought to be examined and discussed rather fully in this forum today.

I am looking forward to having the members participate, and I want to underline that. It goes without saying we would like to see this as the hallmark of this new government. We should like to be seen as indicating the value and the essential nature of participation in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario with regard to discussion of very difficult decisions that have to be made for individuals and those that will shape the future of the province.

Therefore, I think this debate sets forth a very basic picture of how this province is going to operate, how the individual members are going to operate, how the constituents of each riding are going to be represented. It is without question a matter deserving of a very long and full discussion.

I would say to members that certain of their colleagues will have some very specific items. Perhaps these items may be too specific for individual interest on every member's part.

However, they will set forward some options that will have to be discussed by each of us when we come to determine the final recommendations that will have to go forward to the commission.

Thank you for this opportunity. I now invite members throughout the House to join in discussing this motion.

11:30 a.m.

Mr. Timbrell: I am pleased to join, however briefly, this discussion on redistribution of the electoral districts of the province. This is the second time in my almost 14 years as a member that I have gone through this process. In my view, despite all the faults that any one member can point to over the years, the process as it is now established in Ontario is a very fair one. It is seen to be fair in that the commissioners who review these matters take their guidance from the criteria as agreed upon by the parties in the House and then, in a very fair and objective way, bring forward their proposals.

What we have before us is the second set of proposals from the commission. Once this debate is concluded—I hope before the House rises, presumably next Friday—the Hansard of this debate and the resolutions of the various members already in Orders and Notices and those which will be submitted subsequent to today will go to the commission. Following that, they will submit the third and final set of recommendations.

As a caution to the Minister of Health (Mr. Elston), I would hope that after this very thorough debate, after the concerns of individual members with respect to their constituencies and concerns about regional and proportional representations are on the record, the government will not make major alterations when that third report is delivered to us, presumably some time this fall. I think it is very important with respect to the credibility of the process and of this assembly that the government not tinker with it too greatly.

I understand there may have to be some minor changes even at that point-changes of name, perhaps the straightening of some boundaries in minor ways-but not major changes. Otherwise, with all due respect, if the government were to do that at that time, it would throw the whole process under a cloud of suspicion.

We have been vary careful over the years, on the two occasions in which I have participated in the process, to recognize certain regional requirements. First, there is the fact that northern Ontario, which is close to the order of 90 per cent of our land mass but with a very small proportion of our population, must be protected. We did that

in the drafting of the original criteria that went to the commission, and I think by and large they have done a rather good job. I suspect some of my colleagues from northern Ontario may have some comments to make about how the recommendations can be improved, but the level of representation for northern Ontario, with the support of all members and all parties, has been held intact.

Then there is the question of rural requirements. I am pleased the Minister of Health touched on that matter because, while I represent an urban constituency, members are aware of my long-standing interest in and concern for rural Ontario. I am not at all sure that in the second report of the commission it has properly applied the 25 per cent variation in the population figures per constituency.

I am concerned and I know many members of my party, and perhaps of all parties, are concerned that some of the rural constituencies recommended by the commission could well be much too large. Some of the constituencies are not based on communities of interest. Some of the recommended constituencies would make it very difficult both for members adequately to represent them and for the people in those constituencies to have a proper access to their members of the Legislative Assembly.

My constituency is one which the commission has recommended be changed fairly substantially, removing several parts of the constituency and adding only one apartment building. As far as I am concerned, I would be prepared to have the constituency of Don Mills stay as it is even with the population growth that has occurred since the last redistribution and since the census which provides the figures for the commission's calculations.

If the commission decides that it cannot leave Don Mills alone, then I have registered in motion 11 in Orders and Notices, certain concerns about the specifics of its recommendations. However, I want it to be known that I would be just as happy to have it left alone if that would help the commission to ensure that rural Ontario would get a better share of the 130 seats that will make up the 34th Parliament of Ontario.

A number of my colleagues will participate in the debate today and in the ensuing time allocated on agreement of the House leaders. We look forward later this year to receiving and, very soon thereafter, implementing the third and final report of the commission, so the machinery can be in place very quickly when the marriage of our two colleagues breaks apart within the next 12 to

18 months and all will be ready for the next general election based on redistribution.

Mr. Wildman: I will not get into the questions of marriage and divorce alluded to by my colleague the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell); I will speak briefly in this debate. You will know, Mr. Speaker, that I was not one of the members who filed a motion on the notice paper with regard to redistribution, but I do want to make some comments about representation in this province, in northern Ontario particularly, as well as some minor comments about the riding of Algoma.

I agree with the comments made by the member for Don Mills about northern Ontario. It is imperative that the north maintains at least the representation it has now in this Legislature. Very few members from southern Ontario have any real understanding of the size of most of the

northern constituencies.

I know my colleague the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine) can explain to his friends in his own party something about the distances involved in a northern Ontario riding. In my experience, very few members who come from southern Ontario have any real understanding of the distances we have to deal with in northern Ontario.

Before dealing specifically with that, I would like to raise one question I have with regard to the figure of 130. Personally, I do not know how we came to that figure. It seems to me we may have arrived at it without first dealing with the questions of criteria such as population and distance in an way adequate to ensure that there is not too great a variance between rural and urban ridings and northern and southern Ontario ridings with regard to population.

Many members in this Legislature, when I tell them I have 50,000 people in my riding, would say that is one of the smallest ridings in Ontario, and it certainly is in population. I should point out, however, that by road, from one end of the constituency to the other, the distance is approximately 400 miles. In other words, it is about the same distance from Algoma Mills in the southeast end of Algoma to Highway 11 in the northwestern section of Algoma as it is from Sault Ste. Marie to Toronto.

While some members of this Legislature, I am certain, can walk around their riding in an afternoon, it would take about seven hours to drive from one end of my riding to the other. Obviously, that does present problems about representation. It presents problems for the member and it also presents problems for the residents of Algoma district when it comes to ensuring they get the kind of access to their member and to the legislative process that all citizens of this province deserve.

The commission has done an admirable job of trying to take into account population and distance in coming up with its proposal.

I certainly support the position taken by all three parties in this Legislature that the number of constituencies in northern Ontario should not change, or at least should not become smaller. We must recognize that if we increase the total number of seats in this Legislature while maintaining the same number of northern Ontario seats, we are lowering the representation of the

On a personal basis, in my riding of Algoma, I am very happy to continue to represent the people in the communities of Algoma district, as I have in the past. I was pleased with the support I received from the people in the various communities on May 2. I am quite happy to have Algoma remain as it is and as the commission has left it.

However, I should point out that the neighbouring riding of Sault Ste. Marie is one of the largest in Ontario in terms of population. It makes sense, on an economic and social basis, to say Sault Ste. Marie should remain one contiguous provincial riding. It could be argued that the people of Algoma, with its smaller population, have a greater say in the legislative process than do the residents of Sault Ste. Marie. Those are problems we had to deal with that made the commission's job rather difficult.

I will conclude by referring to two or three small problems with the current boundaries of Algoma riding. For the life of me, I do not understand why commissions, or those charged with the responsibility of drawing electoral boundaries, seem so enamoured with geographic township lines.

For instance, it makes absolutely no sense that the small community of Algoma Mills, with a total population of about 60, should be divided between Algoma and Algoma-Manitoulin. Surely all that community could be either in Algoma-Manitoulin or in Algoma. Simply because the boundary line of the geographic township of Striker runs through the middle of Algoma Mills, it is divided in two. It does not make any sense.

A similar situation is found in the northeastern section of Algoma district near the community of Missinabi, which is in my riding. Three miles east of Missinabi is a community called Renabie, where there is a mine. That community is in Nickel Belt. Most of the people who live in Missinabi work in Renabie. Certainly, the people from Renabie share most of their social functions, shopping and so on, with the people in Algoma riding.

It does not make any sense for Renabie, which is many miles from the closest community in Nickel Belt, to be in that riding. My colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) will forgive me if I point out that I, rather than he, do most of the work in Renabie. It would make sense to change the boundary slightly to include that community.

In the last election campaign there was a rather interesting controversy in the community of Hornepayne, in the north end of my riding of Algoma. A number of people suggested that perhaps the community of Hornepayne, the township of Wicksteed, might be redistributed into the Cochrane North riding. The arguments presented were quite persuasive. It was pointed out that there are closer ties among Hornepayne, Hearst and Kapuskasing than there are among Hornepayne, White River and Wawa.

Economically, the ties are with Hearst and Kapuskasing. Traditionally, the lumber industry has been related to those two northern communities rather than to White River. It could be pointed out that chips are also shipped to Marathon, so there are connections with the riding of Lake Nipigon.

With respect to highway transportation, traditionally there has been closer contact between Hearst and Hornepayne than between Hornepayne and White River, although that has been changing since a highway through to White River was completed in the early 1970s.

Having pointed that out, I should say there is no consensus in Hornepayne as to whether this change should take place. There was a good deal of controversy and there is no indication at this point that a majority of the people in the community want it changed. However, I think it is legitimate to say that a large number of the business leaders in the community would like a change.

I wanted to put that on the record so the commission would consider it. I have enjoyed representing the community of Hornepayne in the past and I will continue to enjoy representing it. I have had discussions with my colleague the member for Cochrane North on this issue. One problem with the geographic location of Hornepayne is that no matter which riding it is in, it is

going to be at one end of the riding. That makes it rather difficult for Hornepayne to be in the centre of any large northern riding unless the lines across many electoral districts are changed substantially.

I commend the commission for its work. I think it has attempted to take into account economic and social ties as well as size of ridings, population and district. It is a very difficult task. I hope and trust the commission will take into very serious consideration the views expressed in this debate by the members. I look forward to the continuation of the debate later in the autumn, and to the eventual redistribution and changes in electoral boundaries that will probably be in effect when we face an election two or perhaps four years hence.

Mr. McKessock: I rise to take part in this debate, my motion being number 23 in Orders and Notices. I realize the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission has a tough job to do sorting out and making changes to the electoral boundaries. However, I have to object to the provisions set out in the report. My objections are confined mostly to the reduced ridings in rural Ontario and I will get specifically to my riding of Grey.

It seems the commission has come up with an expansion by about eight urban ridings. Five more have been added to the 125 now in force. There will be about eight more urban ridings and the rural ridings will be reduced by about three.

The biggest concern I have is that rural Ontario is going to lose more representation. The farming community and agriculture, and the tourist area in my riding, have continued to be squeezed over the years. We have to realize that these ridings represent not only the people of the riding but also a big concern of the province.

I have received numerous comments from people throughout the riding, giving me their views and concerns about the change in electoral boundaries. They too express the concern that we will be losing rural seats in the House; that is their main concern. As responsible citizens, we recognize change is inevitable, but the method and frequency is negotiable and that is why we are addressing the question.

11:50 a.m.

I have some comments from one of my constituents that I think are worth repeating and I would like to present them. They are from Duncan McCallum, who makes some worthwhile comments on how accessibility would be changed. He states:

"In the Metro Toronto area where the...seat of government is located, the public have ready access to all legislative offices as well as most ministry offices in that area. The citizens of the whole Metro area are well served by convenient, low-cost access to the total operation of government.

"Likewise, in most of the major urban centres across the province, many suboffices of the various ministries are readily available to local

citizens.

"In rural areas like Grey, government services are not readily available. The alternative is to use the local member's office." If we reduce the number of local members' offices in rural Ontario, the people will not have the same accessibility to government. This significantly increases the demands for service on the local member's office. He points out that to enlarge these rural ridings would further affect the level of service to the detriment of the member and his constituents.

He also makes some comments on continuity and stability:

"Further, it is our contention that the boundary changes affect continuity and stability in an area. Changes that decrease area representation have a more disruptive impact on an area than changes that increase area representation. In short, taking away is more disruptive than additional giving.

"We ask your consideration of the following

suggestions:

"1. There has been a democratic principle established, whereby provision is made to set definite minimum representation from a geographic area regardless of population ratios. This could provide for increased representation from the growth areas at the same time.

"2. Fix any decreasing area boundary changes for a definite period of time...to provide stability. This would encourage interested and qualified persons to offer themselves for service or election with some degree of certainty in the

foreseeable future.

"In summation, we request that the boundaries of the riding of Grey and associated rural ridings not be adjusted at this time without further consideration of the following aspects."

We are remembering here that Grey is one of four rural ridings in our area which would be reduced to three under the proposal of the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission.

"I. The prime importance of the agricultural industry to the total economy and the essential need to provide for a substantial elected body of support to maintain it in a healthy condition.

"II. That geography rather than population be the determining factor for representation to provide equality (a) of service to all citizens and (b) full communication of information available.

"III. That minimum representation for a fixed period of time become a concrete tenet of establishing riding boundaries to provide a degree of stability and continuity."

I would also like to point out that I have received numerous resolutions from all parts of the riding which, again, point out the necessity to hold the line on decreasing the number of rural ridings. We would like at least to maintain the rural ridings we have in Ontario.

The township of St. Vincent in Grey riding states that the township has been made aware that the commission's preliminary report proposes to reduce the ridings of Grey, Grey-Bruce, Huron-Bruce and Huron-Middlesex from four to three. On April 16, 1984, the municipal council of the township of St. Vincent adopted the following motion:

"That the township write the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission expressing concern over the reduction of ridings in this area. The above ridings represent a very large portion of Ontario and any reduction in the number of members is unjustified. The four ridings are basically rural and, to properly present the complicated issues of the rural area, we definitely need to retain the present number of members."

I also have a resolution from the town of Durham outlining and stressing much the same sentiments. It points out that, as usual, it appears that rural Ontario is being shunted aside in favour of the urban areas. Farmers are given less and less say in government but are expected to continue to provide sustenance for the entire country.

The town of Hanover states in its resolution:

"That the town of Hanover is opposed to the reduction of electoral boundaries in rural Ontario and that a letter from the town be sent to the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission recommending that the ridings of Grey, Grey-Bruce, Huron-Bruce and Huron-Middlesex remain unchanged."

From the village of Flesherton and the township of Bentinck we have further motions passed by their councils. The southern part of the riding which represents part of Palmerston and part of Grey riding from Wellington county states opposition to the reduction of rural seats. There is also a resolution from the township of Egremont.

I stand here as one who is probably more familiar with the riding of Grey than anyone else in Ontario, having been its representative since 1975. I have travelled the length of the riding, which is approximately 90 miles, and the width, which is approximately 60 miles, a great many times in the last 10 years.

Grey riding consists of 26 municipalities, about half of which are small towns and villages and the other half townships. Although it involves three counties, since parts of Dufferin and Wellington counties were brought in in 1975, they fit in well with other municipalities as being typical rural small towns, villages and townships. The riding is very diversified, depending mainly on agriculture. The small towns and villages depend on the agricultural community for sales and service industry to a large extent.

Tourism runs a close second to agriculture, with the ski hills of Collingwood township and Euphrasia township and many snowmobile trails, parks, rivers and streams for fishing throughout the riding. There is room for considerable expansion in the tourist business in this riding. There again, because tourism is so important to Ontario, we feel a reduction in ridings in our area would be detrimental to the whole province.

Many small industries are established in the towns and villages in the riding, such as Thornbury, Meaford, Markdale, Dundalk, Durham, Hanover, Harriston and Palmerston. Hanover is the largest town in the riding with 6,000 people. To take the rural areas at the south end out of the riding–Melancthon township in Dufferin county, and Minto township, Harriston, Palmerston and Clifford in Wellington county–and bring in the city of Owen Sound with 20,000 people at the north end would change Grey riding from a predominantly rural to a predominantly urban riding and increase the population from 55,000 to 73,000.

That is considerably above the suggested average of 60,000 people and much above some of the ridings farther south which have been set at 53,000 population. The opposite could be said for Bruce riding. If it loses Owen Sound, it will change from a predominantly urban to a predominantly rural riding. I see no good reason for upsetting these ridings in this manner. Owen Sound services the northern part of Bruce county more than it services the southern part of Grey.

12 noon

I guess I have just made a pitch to leave Grey riding the way it is.

I want to branch out to an area that gives me even more concern, as I have mentioned before: that is, losing three or four rural ridings in Ontario; my neighbour riding, Huron-Bruce, being one of them. We cannot afford to lose any more rural ridings in Ontario. When I say "we," I mean everyone in Ontario. Agriculture is too important to Ontario to cut out any more of its representation in the Legislature. One of five jobs in Ontario is related to agriculture.

The rural ridings, although they may not reach the average 60,000 population figure suggested, have more importance to Ontario than just their population. A rural riding such as my own not only represents people and acts as their voice in the House, such as a riding in downtown Toronto would, but also is a voice for agriculture and tourism for all Ontario.

Representing people and their rights and welfare is fine, but without someone representing agriculture, tourism and these other things, the welfare of people from urban ridings could be in jeopardy. Therefore, I would like to see our area—and I am talking about all four ridings—remain much the same as it is, with the riding of Huron-Bruce staying as one of those valuable voices for the welfare of all the people of Ontario and not just that of the local riding.

Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to have an opportunity to address this august House on such an important matter. First, since this is the first opportunity I have had, I want to congratulate you on your appointment as Deputy Speaker and, through you, the Speaker on his appointment. The excellent training you had when you first came into the House under the great whip in the Conservative Party at that time will serve you in good stead and will go a long way to helping you manage the House. I am sure you will take advantage of that.

As many members do, 36 in all, I have a motion in Orders and Notices outlining my concerns and objections to the latest submission by the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission. I am not going to go into too many of the details because they are pretty clearly outlined. I know everyone in the House will be very interested in reading the motion word for word to know precisely what my objections are.

What I want to do is to voice one or two of my concerns regarding the methods used by the commission. I want to do that because it seems to me there is a certain amount of inconsistency. Perhaps I do not understand the method used, but one can almost imagine three people sitting there, one with a bunch of numbers, another with

an adding machine and a third with a big black crayon, starting at one or the other end of the province, adding up to 68,000 and drawing a black line wherever it should fall, regardless of the present riding boundaries and the disruption being caused by these suggestions.

My case in point is Mississauga in general and, more specifically, Mississauga East, my riding. The city of Mississauga is rather exceptional in Ontario primarily because of its rapid growth. It is unique when one considers that today it has a population of 330,000, which makes it about the eighth-largest city in Canada, but that perhaps only 20 years ago its population was around 30,000 or 40,000.

It is easy to understand there have to be major changes in redistribution when we are going by figures alone. However, bearing that in mind, some special consideration should be given to communities that have built up and worked well

together over such a growing period.

There is one thing that puzzles me. When the initial submission by this commission was brought forward we were all asked to make some comments. Through my association and my ratepayers' group, I submitted some suggestions as to what could be done to improve the submission. When the second submission came back, the recommendations had been totally disregarded and an entirely new configuration was created that had absolutely no relation to the original riding or the first submission. It seems it became a case of juggling numbers around and it did not matter where the boundaries fell.

I have a couple of points to illustrate that. A lot of members come from western Ontario to Queen's Park, some every day and others once a week. They drive the Queen Elizabeth Way and know that nothing could be a more natural boundary for a riding than that highway; because it is impossible to get across it if one is walking, it has to be done by automobile on one of the main roads.

Mr. Haggerty: I also have highways you cannot get across.

Mr. Gregory: I understand that. I am not complaining about the highway. I am saying it presents a natural boundary for a riding, depending on the size of the riding, as is probably the case in the member's case. The other natural boundary is Highway 10, and that is a similar situation. Etobicoke Creek, which is the division between Mississauga and Etobicoke in Metropolitan Toronto, is another natural boundary.

Within those boundaries, it is quite possible to change the configuration of Mississauga East and

Mississauga North without disrupting those boundaries much. The latest submission by the commission totally ignores those boundaries and reduces the size of Mississauga East quite substantially by moving away from the Queen Elizabeth Way north to Dundas Street, by moving away from Highway 10 east to the Cawthra-Highway 403 configuration, which are not natural boundaries, and then proceeding north to take in an area that once was Malton and now is part of the city of Mississauga.

It is all part of Mississauga, and that is fine; however, the problem is that there is no natural or historic connection between Malton and the southern part of Mississauga on the basis of representation. What makes that even stronger is the fact that the international airport falls between the two segments they are now trying to join. I see the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Offer) nodding. I think he agrees with my comment that there is absolutely no connection and no logical reason why this should have been done.

I cannot speak for the present member for Mississauga North, because he has only been here a short time, but the former member for Mississauga North had certain negotiations and certain arrangements with ratepayers' groups. It makes it easier to represent an area if one has some connection with the ratepayers' groups and community organizations.

In my riding of Mississauga East I have such a thing. The recommendation from those citizens' groups and community organizations was precisely the recommendation I put forward on the initial submission; and for the very same reason, that there was a community of interest there.

The recommendation we have in this final submission totally destroys that community and makes it, not impossible because nothing is impossible, but extremely difficult to be a representative in the same fashion. Going back over my 10 years in this House, it takes 10 years to discover and really determine how one best represents one's area. Some ridings have to be disturbed when there is redistribution; that goes without saying, I am not arguing against that logic. However, things have to be taken into consideration other than simple numbers and the big black crayon marking on a map.

12:10 p.m.

I object in the strongest terms to what is being done. I feel they have ignored almost all the terms of reference they were given to work with. My motion under the Orders and Notices outlines that. In my opinion, they did it because they

chose to operate simply on the numbers, the adding machine and the big black crayon.

We have to be very careful, and the commission must be advised, that due respect is paid to traditional boundaries. The fact these have been in existence for 10 years gives them a certain historic validity. In the long scheme of things with respect to some of the ridings in north-central Ontario, 10 years is nothing. I understand that, and that is precisely why I believe Mississauga has to be treated a little bit differently in this regard because it has grown so fast.

When people live together in an urban environment it is a little different from a rural community. In an urban community they must and do band together because of the ideas and thoughts they have. They see it as their way of representing themselves with their elected representatives. All I am asking is that this be allowed to continue.

To totally mangle a riding to achieve the numbers game is silly. Bearing in mind the population of Mississauga East at present is 100,046—it is oversized—we recognized in the suggestion we made initially that it had to be cut down. That could have been done by simply slicing about a third, perhaps, off the north end. It is recognized that it has to be done. However, when it is sliced down to the point where it is about 40 per cent of what it used to be by taking off the south and west ends and bringing it back up to strength by adding something remote from it, that seems to me a rather brutual way of doing things.

I feel quite strongly about what is being done. I urge this House, and particularly those members who have endorsed my motion, to be supportive. I hope the member for Mississauga North will support what I am saying, because it reflects on his own riding in the same way.

I want to be on record as being totally opposed to this recommendation by the commission.

Mr. Breaugh: I want to put a few words on the record about the findings of the commission. I have followed its deliberations on the matter and find them unique in the sense that this was a group reporting on a rather touchy issue of setting up different boundaries and ridings. It seemed to me the evidence was pretty clear in their work that they had some guiding principles and adhered to those pretty well all the way through. They had a population range they wanted to observe, and that was the mark against which all their decisions were made. By and large, I support that notion.

I want to put a couple of other viewpoints together which are true for my area and, I think, for many others as well. It would be nice if it were possible to simply devise a formula, particularly a mathematical one, and somehow at the other end that would spew out the shape and form of all the ridings. Unfortunately, that is not the case. I believe my area is an example of the kind of small problems, not major ones, that we incur.

It occasioned me to do something I have not done in a long time and that is extremely unusual for me: I signed one of the motions put forward by the member for Durham West (Mr. Ashe). I think that is about the first time in a decade I have agreed with the honourable member on anything. It seemed to me he had a valid point in objecting to a new riding that is being carved out. It is a good example of the kind of problems that can occur when the population guideline is the guiding principle.

It is obvious that the whole region of Durham has been a growth area for some decades now and that there is a legitimate reason for creating another riding there. The commission tried to do that. But when one sits down and says, "Another riding should be put in this area; how do we do that?" one gets into other problems. One problem is whether to alter the boundaries of the riding of Oshawa by moving a chunk of the city over a bit and bringing that into the riding. That might involve taking a chunk of Oshawa and tacking it on to Whitby and taking another chunk of the northern part of the community and tacking it onto Durham East.

I am sure this makes eminent good sense; if one is working with a population allocation the numbers come out roughly the way they should. In the proposal to change the boundaries of the riding of Oshawa it means the member will have by far the largest population to serve of all the ridings in the Durham region, about 78,000 people. That obviously creates some problems for whoever is the sitting member. He will have a larger population to serve, but he will get the same allocation to serve that population as everybody else.

I would make a plea that if the government wants to have a riding that serves a larger proportion of the population, it will need some extra allocation of resources. That translates into money for people to do constituency case work.

The second problem is that not many of my constituents—not many of the people who live in Oshawa—read the report of the commission. Not many of them, I am sad to report, know where the

boundaries of the riding are. I have been a member for 10 years, and I am still explaining to people where my riding boundaries are. For some reason they seem to think when one is the member for Oshawa, one is the member for Oshawa. That seems pretty straightforward to me.

Every time I try to explain to them, "Yes, you live in the city of Oshawa, but you do not live in the provincial riding of Oshawa," I do not get very far. They seem to think just because they live on the other side of Adelaide Avenue they should not be excluded from receiving some help from me. If they are a little north of Rossland Road and 10 feet outside of my riding, the argument I put forward to them, "You do not belong to me; you belong to Durham East," does not seem to hold much water. They come to me and say, "Mike, I have a problem with compensation," or "My pension did not come in and I expect you, as somebody I know and who is supposed to be the member for Oshawa, to service my case."

Mr. Eakins: They can take it to the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz).

Mr. Breaugh: We have tried on occasion to remind people gently that they live in the riding of Durham East and not in the riding of Oshawa, but it just does not have a lot of sway with those folks. When they are standing in front of my desk and they have a problem that needs to be resolved, they hand me the problem. One cannot get along for very many hours saying, "No, you live in somebody else's riding." They think they belong to Oshawa. Of course, they all voted for me even though they do not live in the riding, and they all work very hard for me, so I am in honour bound to solve those people's problems.

There comes into the mix something I think the commission had a little problem with: how does one draw boundaries and find natural constituencies?

There is not much to join the people of the city of Oshawa with the people of the town of Newcastle; so in the riding of Durham East there is a problem for the member. There are three or four Legion branches he has to attend every Remembrance Day. There is also a problem for the constituents, who do not follow quite as accurately as we do all the workings of the provincial government. They may not know where the boundary lines are. There are no road markers or anything like that to indicate where Oshawa starts and Durham East stops.

The same thing will be true under the new proposal. The concept that one can somehow

tack a portion of the city of Oshawa on to the town of Whitby and create a new riding called Durham Centre is quite possible in theory. However, in practice the people of Oshawa and the people of Whitby think of themselves as two groups. Their two councils think of themselves as two separate entities. Sometimes they have very different perspectives on matters and very different points of view on what should happen in their municipalities and their ridings.

12:20 p.m.

I am going to make a bit of an argument that some reconsideration ought to take place about these boundary lines, both for my riding of Oshawa and for the proposed riding of Durham Centre. I know what the commission was trying to do. I know the population range was something it really did want to adhere to, but there are two problems that are created by the current recommendations.

The proposed new riding boundaries for Oshawa riding leave it with a rather large population to be served and the boundaries, in particular the northern boundaries, are arbitrary. I do not think there is any question about that. Somebody had to draw a line on the map and he drew a line at an area called Taunton Road when he could have drawn it at Rossland Road or any other of a number of intersections there.

It creates a bit of a problem for whoever might represent the riding of Oshawa in the future. I want to put that on the record. I am not objecting to it very strongly, but I am saying it will put a strain on the resources that are allocated to individual members to service a riding. That problem is going to occur.

Quite frankly, in crass political terms it makes no difference to me. How one devises the boundary lines in my area throughout the whole city of Oshawa makes relatively little difference. It simply means I will walk a different set of streets for a portion of the riding. I do not anticipate the results will be much different because I walked those streets in the federal election and came up with not bad results.

I am happy to have a portion of the boundary shifted over to the eastern part of the city. I am a little sad to lose some of the western part of the city because I have worked that part of the constituency for a fairly lengthy period of time now. I am very comfortable with those people and very happy with that relationship. I do not think they are going to fit very nicely into a new riding that consists of the town of Whitby and a chunk of the city of Oshawa.

It is an awkward mix. It is going to be more awkward probably, for people in the town of Whitby, which has a long history of identity. It was originally a county town. When they put in regional government they did not mess around very much with the boundaries for the town of Whitby. It has an identity of its own. How a member is expected to serve the town of Whitby, almost a constituency by itself, and a chunk of the city of Oshawa, is going to be difficult to explain. There will be awkwardness there.

I guess what I am trying to say is that, like other members, I like to have a constituency that has an identity, where people understand easily, without any real problem and without reaching for a provincial riding boundary map, which riding they belong to. There is some measure of difficulty now in the Durham region with people not knowing who lives in Durham East, Durham West, Oshawa and Durham-York, which has changed its name in the last 10 years at least once. That problem is going to be compounded if the proposals in the current report are adopted.

I am not suggesting for a minute that a revolution is going to break loose in Oshawa. All I am saying is that the commission is creating, if it adheres to these current proposals, a couple of more headaches for me or whoever represents the riding of Oshawa, which I suppose is of no great concern to anybody in this House but will create some problems for the people we are purportedly serving here.

It is not impossible to devise a redistribution scheme which has as a guiding principle a population range. I am in agreement with that, but I do not think it should be the overriding principle. In other words, the government should seek some identity that is already there, as in the case of the town of Whitby.

I could give a pretty good argument that the town of Whitby is pretty close to being an entity with sufficient population range. If the commission wanted to bring in part of the northern part of what was created under regional government—it now belongs to the city of Oshawa, though it never did in the past but was part of Ontario county—it seems to me it could come up with a configuration there which is not quite as neat and tidy a package as I would like but is something where people have for a long time related to the county town. It is part of the old county of Ontario, which is now part of the region of Durham and the city of Oshawa.

Some people have not accepted that quite as nicely as we would like, even after more than a decade of regional government. I think the

commission could create a Durham Centre seat there that everybody would understand. They would know that a new seat had been created. It would make some sense to them. The current proposal, to take a chunk of the city of Oshawa and tack it on to Whitby, is not sitting too nicely. There are no fist fights in the bars over this, but there will be some discussion about whether the member services a chunk or portion of the city of Oshawa or services the town of Whitby.

When it comes to events that happen on Remembrance Day, New Year's Day or whatever it is, the member will obviously have to make a choice, "Do I go to where more people are or do I go to the one that has the nicest fruit punch?" Through some wonderful means, the member is going to have to decide which ceremony he or she attends; and that will create some problems.

When I have been talking to the member for Durham East, he has mentioned from time to time that it is difficult to make an arbitrary decision as to which social event one goes to and which legion one goes to. One is expected to appear at those events, but one obviously cannot appear in five places at the same time. The member has to select one event. Then people in the other part of the riding often say, "I did not see the local member at my Remembrance Day ceremony." For many people, it is important the member be there; it is seen to be part of the member's job.

I wanted to put on the record some of my concerns about the way in which the boundaries were drawn. I understand the principle and I think it is admirable we are coming closer to the mark in getting to a population range where there are no wild variations. However, I think there is another element that is important: some kind of community must be served.

Perhaps I could make a couple of remarks on areas other than my own. For example, I heard members speak today about making sure that the north, in effect, does not lose seats. I think that is important. There are a number of ridings in northern Ontario that are quite huge and are very difficult for a member to service. Even though we use tie-lines and telephone communications, and even though we mail out and have a northern air allowance and all that, it is tough to service a constituency slightly larger than the state of Texas; we have one of those. I think that should be a problem for us. I think there should be additional representation for northern Ontario.

Other members have talked about rural Ontario. If we become totally fixed with the notion that a population range must be the only consideration, we create problems in parts of the province that need to be represented in this Legislature. Farm communities need to be represented here. They may not have huge population bases, but it would be quite a wrong move if, in some attempt to get to population base as a better guiding principle, we damaged the representation, the number of members who are in this Legislature from northern and rural Ontario, whether it is eastern or what we call southwestern Ontario.

I think that would be a wrong move because it would upset the balance here. Even though the north may not always have the population base to warrant an additional constituency, the problems and the potential of northern Ontario dictate it not lose any representation in the Legislature.

The same principle is true for rural Ontario. It would be dead wrong to say eastern Ontario does not have a lot of people and so it has to lose some representation. It would be even worse to say that eastern Ontario can have the same number of members, but more people live in the Ottawa-Carleton region, therefore there is redistribution under which the people from Plum Hollow, a rural community included in a new Ottawa-Carleton riding, do not know their representative at Queen's Park. They should know who represents that wonderful community or the community of Plum Hollow or Delhi or any of the other areas. They have to be represented here even if there is not a huge population base to warrant dividing the constituencies on that basis.

In the north, in the east and in the southwest, it is important that, whatever we do with respect to redistribution, we do not damage the kind and amount of representation. That would be another principle I would put forward as being very important.

Finally, I want to say a bit about the number of members who are here.

cilibers who are note.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Here today?

Mr. Breaugh: It is actually not bad for a Friday morning. I have been here when there was less riff-raff hanging around.

We recognize there is an arbitrary piece of business at work with this. There is no real reason for this House to have 125 members now and no real reason for the proposal for 130 members. There is no real reason it could not be 155, 150, 140 members or whatever number. A certain measure of arbitrariness enters the picture.

12:30 p.m.

Mrs. Grier: There is no room.

Mr. Breaugh: Yes, there is that problem. We have a bit of a difficulty here this session because

of the way the numbers fell in the election. The electorate did not respect the fact that we wanted to have an aisle down here. My favourite place to hang out when I wanted to stand up for a little while has been nationalized by some members. We now have our desks right up against the wall. There is no place for me to stand any more.

Mr. Grande: It is against the fire regulations.

Mr. Breaugh: It probably is against the fire regulations. We should call in the fire marshal and get that out.

There is no real rationale that says there ought to be 125 members here. I think not a bad case can be made for additional members from a number of points of view. I say that with the clearest stipulation that I do not want to see any reallocation of ridings which damages northern Ontario or the percentage of members who come from the north or which damages rural Ontario. Even though we are not a powerhouse in eastern Ontario yet, we are coming along and we will be there one of these days.

A good argument can be made that if the committee system does become more active around here, and it will, we are all going to have some problems finding members who can spend time on them. The government side in particular, which is a little short of ordinary back-bench members, is going to have a little difficulty stocking those committees. There will be a lot of folks on that side who will be very busy for the next while. All the parties are going to have that problem.

It seems to me that what someone suggested in jest a little while ago is probably pretty close to the truth. We designed the number of representatives in Ontario in part—I do not want to say altogether—in part because we cannot fit all the desks in here. That has always been a consideration as long as I have been around here. Whenever we talk about adding additional seats to the Legislature one of the first-line arguments is there is no room for more desks.

I am not sure this argument is worth much consideration. At Westminster, for example, where there are more than 600 members in Parliament, if they all showed up on any given day nobody could find a seat anywhere. They hang around upstairs. They go through lobbies to vote. They do not have a big desk; they have long benches. There is a pecking order as to where they sit, but they find places and sit down. One member stands up, gives his speech and then goes out into the lobby to vote. There are ways to accommodate them all.

I believe the commission did a pretty good job in doing a rough draft, but I would like to see the first draft rethought somewhat. I am not afraid of the notion that additional seats should be added. I want careful consideration to make sure parts of the province which I believe are important, even though they do not have the population base, such as the north, rural areas—and west Metro, I am told—do not get hurt in this process. Although I know it is difficult, I would like to see them try, when they do change boundaries and add additional seats, to identify a community of interest.

I reiterate that there is not a lot of interest between the town of Whitby and the city of Oshawa, particularly when the new riding is going to be the whole town of Whitby and a little chunk of the city of Oshawa. I do not think that is going to work too smoothly. In its proposal for boundaries in the new riding of Oshawa I think the commission came close to the mark, but I do not think it quite hit it.

I should admit that although I am not terribly pleased, it will not be I who will bear the brunt of this. It will be the one person who works in my constituency office who pays the price. I will be down here telling the members of this House how bad it is, but she will be back in the office listening to all the people who have problems and need a little bit of help.

On those two grounds, I think these are matters the commission ought to think about and see if it can find a better way to redraw those boundaries to identify communities of interest.

I will conclude by congratulating the commission for doing a pretty good job, and a very difficult one, of redrawing the boundaries and sticking to its principles. I would have liked to see a little more in the way of public hearings. In my area, for example, the people could have come to Toronto or could have gone to Peterborough, but I do not think it would have been impossible for the commission to have had a hearing within the region of Durham. It is a big chunk of turf. There are a lot of people there, a quarter of a million or more. A lot of municipalities are affected, five or six ridings, and they are proposing not only small boundary adjustments but also an additional riding.

I do not know whether we can have more in the way of public hearings, but I would hope when the commission is making proposals of this kind in future it goes to places where it is suggesting rather major changes. Even if it is not a full day's hearing but only an opportunity for people to appear, I think when changes of that size are

being proposed a chance to have a hearing locally is necessary.

I know our people could have gone to Peterborough or come to Toronto, but I also know I personally wanted to make a bit of a presentation—not a long one—on the day the committe was scheduled to have its hearings, but it was in Peterborough and I was here at Queen's Park doing committee work. Had that hearing been in Oshawa, I could have dropped in on the way back home that night or before I came to the meeting here. To ask me to drive an hour to Peterborough and another one back to the riding would have been rather difficult. In practical terms, it was awkward.

I want to congratulate them for doing what I think is a very good job of putting together the proposal. All I am saying is it was not a perfect job, and I do not think anybody on the commission would pretend it achieved perfection here. There were those problems I identified.

I appreciate the chance to try to participate a bit during the course of this debate. It is one of those occasions on which I would hope a lot of members speak. There are a number who are taking the time to participate in the drafting of motions and putting their names to them, but I think it is an important part of the process that the members of the Legislature, who after all work with these boundaries, should have an opportunity to debate this now and presumably pick it up a little later on in the fall session. Designing the boundaries is an important part of the process of redrafting and filing the report.

Although it is unreasonable to expect members of the commission to know all of the local nuances of Algoma Mills, or wherever, and the 60 people there and how it affects them, that is the local member's job. Members are expected to know their own constituencies and adjacent ones and to be able to participate in this kind of debate, in which they bring to the commission's attention things about which it could not reasonably expect its members to know very much.

I appreciate the opportunity to do that and I will listen with great interest to other members.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I would like to speak briefly in this debate as it affects the electoral boundaries of Victoria-Haliburton. May I, first of all, offer congratulations to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker on their appointments. I know they have a very important task and I wish them well in their deliberations in the days ahead in this Legislature.

I want to associate myself with and commend the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh), or that part of Oshawa he represents, for his comments in this debate. When my daughter moved to Oshawa, I assured her that if she had any provincial problems she would be well looked after, but after a few visits I found she did not live in the member's riding although she lived in Oshawa.

I understand and associate myself with many of the concerns the member has raised. I think in many ways they are reflected in a number of ridings across the province. Some of the comments are certainly applicable to the one I represent. I know it is important to look after the great population influxes into some of the ridings, especially the urban areas of the province, but in doing so, I do not think we should place in jeopardy some of the rural regions, especially the area I am going to mention in Victoria-Haliburton. It may seem very insignificant compared to many of the problems some of my colleagues have mentioned here this morning.

12:40 p.m.

I attended the hearings in Peterborough before Mr. Justice Samuel H. S. Hughes. At that time the plan was to remove three townships from Victoria county. I might explain that at present the electoral boundaries encompass the exact boundaries of the two counties of Haliburton and Victoria. The original plan of the commission was to remove three townships: the townships of Dalton and Carden were to be placed probably with Simcoe East, and the township of Manvers was to be placed with the electoral riding of Durham East, farther to the south.

Following our presentation and the further report from the commission, Dalton and Carden were very correctly placed back into the county of Victoria. However, we were not so fortunate with the township of Manvers. If there were some good reason for Manvers township to become part of Durham East, I think I could readily agree to it, but it is simply that a population of somewhere in the neighbourhood of 3,350 people is being shifted and disrupted, I suppose to make up a quota for Durham East. There must be a better reason than simply just to divide up the people.

In 1974, when the region of Durham was brought into being, the township of Manvers requested that it be part of the county of Victoria. I think it was a very wise decision. They have many things in common: the geography, the people come to the Lindsay area for many of their needs and they feel at home. I understand the grandfather of the chairman of the commission,

Mr. Justice Hughes, that is, the late Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Hughes, was the member for Victoria and Haliburton. I believe at one time he taught school in Manvers township and then he moved farther north into the county of Victoria, which he represented for many years. I see no good reason that the township of Manvers should not remain within the county.

Since becoming part of the county of Victoria in 1974, the reeve of the township a few years ago was elected warden of the county, which seemed to cement a good relationship and made the people of the township feel at home and a part of Victoria county. Why disturb a county structure that is working well?

The member for Oshawa mentioned the problems of serving the people when they wonder to whom to turn when they need help in a particular area. When resolutions are passed by the county of Victoria or there are other problems, they know they can come to their local member. If the township of Manvers is placed with Durham East, it would mean the people of Victoria and Haliburton would have two members representing them. We might say we know some counties where they have three or four members, and that may be fine, but historically we have had one member for the counties of Victoria and Haliburton. I see no reason why now, for the sake of one township, we should end up having two members representing that area.

The people in Manvers township want to stay with the county of Victoria. I believe they have circulated some 700 letters to the commission asking that they remain within the county structure. I fully support that request. During the election campaign, the then Premier and now Leader of the Opposition (Mr. F. S. Miller), at a meeting in Lindsay, assured Manvers that it would remain part of Victoria-Haliburton. I hope the Leader of the Opposition will be taking part in the debate and will stand up and say he fully supports its retention within those boundaries.

I simply ask the commission to please leave this one township with the structure of government where we have represented the exact boundaries of the two counties. I can see no reason that one township should be taken out of the county structure and out of the total riding, simply to provide a few more heads for Durham East. It makes no sense. The people do not want to go there; they want to remain where they are. Their natural support and business is to the north, towards the town of Lindsay and farther north. I urge the members of the commission not to take

one township to benefit another simply for the sake of trying to even up certain areas.

What the member for Oshawa has stated is: "Make the people feel they know who their representative is and that they know the boundaries they are involved in." It is sometimes very difficult for people to know who represents them, especially if one were to take a township out of its present county. It is very difficult to know who the member for Oshawa is, even when one is in that city.

It would be very difficult indeed for the the people of Manvers township to understand fully who is representing them. People who have a case involving workers' compensation naturally come to their member. Now they will be wondering: "Which way do I go?" Since the member has been their representative, they will still feel the member should be giving them service.

It may not seem very important to take the time of this assembly to discuss one township, but for the people in Victoria-Haliburton and the people of Manvers township it is most important. It is very important that the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission reconsider this one township. It should leave it with a community of interest; that is, within the county where they were placed in 1974 with the creation of the region of Durham.

Mr. Barlow: Mr. Speaker, let me begin by congratulating you, sir, on your appointment to the office you now hold. I know you will bring justice to the position and do an exceptional job in it.

I want to re-emphasize a few of the remarks I put in my motion regarding the matter of redistribution and changing electoral boundaries.

The riding I represent, Cambridge, has been virtually intact since 1867 when the British North America Act came into being. The riding was then known as Waterloo South; it was made up of the townships of North Dumfries, Waterloo South and Wilmot, the town of Galt and the village of Preston.

Now the riding is known as Cambridge; that came about in 1974 at the birth of the city of Cambridge, which was formed from the amalgamation of parts of five former communities: the city of Galt, the towns of Preston and Hespeler, and parts of the townships of North Dumfries and Waterloo. They all joined together to make up the city of Cambridge. At that time there was still a township of North Dumfries with the parts that were left over.

12:50 p.m.

Over the years, whenever there have been new redistribution proposals, be they federal or provincial, North Dumfries has been a target for movement from one riding to another. The last time there was a redistribution proposal for what was then Waterloo South, North Dumfries was going to be moved into another area quite remote from the rest of the riding. At the time, my wife raised an objection and was successful. I hope I can convince the commission this time, as did my wife before the previous commission, to retain North Dumfries in the riding now known as Cambridge.

The population of North Dumfries is only 4,422 people. It is very constant. It has not changed. It is not a growing community in any way, shape or form. The residents are very proud of their background and ancestry. It is not a community that is expanding, where large subdivisions are developing and so forth. There is no foreseeable change in the immediate future. It will no doubt have a population of fewer than 5,000 for the next 10 years or beyond. There is no official plan to suggest it will be anything different. So much for the history lesson.

The proposal under redistribution would remove the township of North Dumfries completely from the regional municipality of Waterloo, which was also formed under regional government on January 1, 1974. To remove North Dumfries from that regional municipality would mean a portion of it being moved to the new riding of Brant-Haldimand, which would mean that township would not have representation by a member from the rest of the regional municipality.

North Dumfries pays a portion of the municipal tax dollar to the regional municipality of Waterloo. They pay their education taxes either to the Waterloo county board of education or to the Waterloo county separate board of education. They would be totally remote from people living in the little village of Ayr and the village of Branchton. There are several little villages there, all part of the township of North Dumfries under one municipal government, which would be remote from being represented by a member from the regional municipality of Waterloo.

Within the next 10 years or so I can see the whole regional municipality expanding in population to the point where an extra seat will be required the next time there is redistribution. At present there are four seats in the regional municipality—Waterloo North, Kitchener, Kitchener-Wilmot and Cambridge. They are all

fairly high in population compared to the average population of the province. Cambridge even now, if North Dumfries were taken out, would still be one of the largest in population in the whole province.

However, just representing a big population is not the reason I am opposing this proposal by the commission. I feel if we move North Dumfries at this time to another riding, the riding of Brant-Haldimand, 10 years down the road when redistribution is considered once again, it will come back into the regional municipality. The people of North Dumfries are just going to be shifted back and forth, as has been proposed in the past number of redistribution proposals, both federally and provincially.

To talk about populations for a moment, the accepted average in the province for southern Ontario is 66,347. The upper end of that, 25 per cent above, would be 82,934; the lower end, minus 25 per cent, would be 49,760. The population, according to the 1981 census for the riding of Cambridge, which includes the township of North Dumfries, would be 82,155, which is very high but still within the 25 per cent above the provincial average.

The proposed Brant-Haldimand riding would be 63,546. If North Dumfries were taken out, the 4,422 people I mentioned previously, Brant-Haldimand would still have a population of 59,124. That is well within the lower end of the

plus or minus 25 per cent.

To leave North Dumfries in the riding of Cambridge would not upset the provincial populations. It is true it might be second highest in the province as far as population is concerned, but that is still within the recommended limits.

I would like to put on the record a couple of letters from Jim Gray, chairman of the regional municipality of Waterloo. His first one, dated March 15, was sent directly to the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission. It reads:

"The advertisement showing the proposed electoral boundaries for the regional municipality of Waterloo indicates that the region will be covered by the electoral districts of Waterloo, Kitchener, Kitchener-Wilmot and Cambridge. A notable exception is that a small portion of the region (part of the township of North Dumfries) would be split off and added to Brant-Haldimand.

"If this were a rapidly growing area with increasing population, I could see some logic in attaching it to a separate jurisdiction, but the entire township of North Dumfries has a population of fewer than 5,000 and it has remained

stable for many years. To suggest that a township of this size should have two different provincial members seems ludicrous and would be confusing to the residents. I therefore would strongly urge the commission to include all of North Dumfries within the electoral district of Cambridge."

In a second letter, addressed to me and dated February 11, 1985, Mr. Gray says: "I note in the press that the matter of electoral boundaries will soon be addressed in the Legislature. I am enclosing a copy of a letter sent last March"—the one I just read—"to the Ontario Electoral Boundaries Commission, and copied at that time to you, and ask that you share my views with your colleagues." That is what I am doing now.

"I would also ask that you emphasize the opposition of the residents of North Dumfries to being separated from the region of Waterloo. It has taken a number of years and considerable personal effort for a regional government to achieve the present level of acceptance by area politicians and residents. I see the proposed boundary change as a giant step backwards. It will be confusing, it will be divisive, it will remove the hard-won sense of community and it will be unnecessary. Please do everything you can to prevent the proposed change."

Finally, and I will not read it in full, there is a letter from the township of North Dumfries. I appeared before their council meeting on February 4 and they passed the following resolution: "This council recommends that the present provincial boundaries of the South Waterloo riding remain intact, as it is, and be assessed at a later date." The clerk was a little behind when he referred to the South Waterloo riding.

I would like to emphasize the effect of removing the township of North Dumfries to another area in order to achieve our electoral boundaries in the riding of Cambridge, which would be well represented by any subsequent member, I am sure; that is not the concern. It is a matter of retaining North Dumfries within the boundaries of the regional municipality of Waterloo because the next time there is redistribution, a fifth seat will be required because of the population of Waterloo. For the number of people who are going to be affected, I strongly urge the commission to reconsider its recommendation and leave North Dumfries as part of the riding of Cambridge.

On motion by Mr. Barlow, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.

APPENDIX A

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

The following answers were tabled after the House adjourned on June 18.

TIMMINS HOSPITAL

2. Mr. D. S. Cooke: Would the Minister of Health table the minutes of all meetings of the interim board of the new district hospital in Timmins? This board was appointed in September 1983. [Tabled June 11, 1983]

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: The Ministry of Health does not receive copies of the interim board minutes, nor do we receive copies of board minutes for any hospital in the province.

HEALTH APPOINTMENTS

3. Mr. D. S. Cooke: Would the Minister of Health table a list of all appointments by the Minister of Health in Ontario from February 1, 1985, until May 30, 1985? [Tabled June 11, 1985]

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Angus, Dr. Donald-Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington District Health Council; Aubry, Louis-Seaway Valley District Health Council; Baird, Dr. James. T.-Seaway Valley District Health Council; Barber, Herbert-Board of Directors of Masseurs; Barham, Dr. Richard-board of governors of the Community Mental Health Clinic, Guelph; Barker, Gary (Deputy Reeve)-Kingston, Frontenanc and Lennox and Addington District Health Council;

Beecroft, Dr. D. John-Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee; Berner, Dr. Mark S.-Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee; Bertrand, Gerard-Seaway Valley District Health Council; Best, Dr. Allan-Health Care Systems Research Review Committee; Boeckh, Ann (Mrs.)-board of governors of the Community Mental Health Clinic, Guelph; Brennan, Louboard of health of the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit; Bruneau, Gary-Manitoulin-Sudbury District Health Council; Burrows, Alan R.-Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee;

Camu, Pierre-Ottawa-Carleton District Health Council; Cape, Dr. Ronald D.-Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee; Cassivi, David-Essex County District Health Council; Chiles, Vernon K.-Drug Quality and Therapeautics Committee; Cobb, Alan-board of health of the Borough of East York Health Unit; Duda, Linda (Mrs.)—Manitoulin-Sudbury District Health Council; Dwosh, Dr. Isaac L.—Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee;

Ewing, John F.-Board of Directors of Masseurs; Fawdrey, Dr. Kaye-Essex County District Health Council; Fraser, Barbara (Mrs.)-Waterloo Region District Health Council; Frazer, James-board of health of the Renfrew County and District Health Unit; Gelberg, Solette (Mrs).-Health Disciplines Board; Gillespie, Jane (Ms.)-Drug Quality and Therapeautics Committee; Gilstorf, Grant H.-Denture Therapists Appeal Board/Health Disciplines Board; Graham, Robert-Lanark, Leeds and Grenville District Health Council; Gray, Kenneth-Seaway Valley District Health Council;

Hamilton, Gordon-Hamilton-Wentworth District Health Council; Harrison, Russell E .board of trustees of Toronto General Hospital; Hawden, Dr. Theodore-board of governors of the Community Mental Health Clinic, Guelph; Heise, Roy L.-Wellington-Dufferin District Health Council; Holmes, Dr. R. Brian-chairman, Ontario Council of Health; Jodoin, Keith-Seaway Valley District Health Council; Johnson, Dr. Richard-Essex County District Health Council; Keast, Eric-Kenora-Rainy River District Health Council; Kilpatrick, Ann (Mrs.)-Lanark, Leeds and Grenville District Health Council; Kort, Audrey (Mrs.)-Lanark, Leeds and Grenville District Health Council; Leger, Guy-Seaway Valley District Health Council;

MacDougall, Lloyd E. (DC)-Board of Directors of Chiropractic; Mackenzie, Hugh K. N.-Denture Therapists Appeal Board/Health Disciplines Board; Mader, Richard Joseph -Board of Directors of Masseurs; Martin, Michael-Manitoulin-Sudbury District Health Council; McConnell, Charles-Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox and Addington District Health Council; McRae, Michael V.-Drug Quality and Therapeutics Committee; Milne, John-Hamilton-Wentworth District Health Council; Nazerali, Dr. Sheila M.-Simcoe District Health Council; Peterson, Mary (Mrs.)-Kenora-Rainy River District Health Council; Poore, Don (Alderman) -Lambton District Health Council;

Reimer, Mary (Mrs.)-Waterloo Region District Health Council; Richer, Murray-Seaway Valley District Health Council; Roebuck, Anne

(Miss)—Board of Directors of Masseurs; Sawchuck, Louise (Mrs.)—Kenora-Rainy River District Health Council; Shulgan, Myron W.—Essex County District Health Council; Smith, Audrey (Mrs.)—Hamilton-Wentworth District Health Council; Sword, John H.—Alcohol and Drug Addiction Research Founcation; Thompson, Dr. W. Grant—Ottawa-Carleton District Health Council; Tobias, Peter B.—Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario; Turner, Gerald P.—Metropolitan Toronto District Health Council;

Walstedt, Kirk-Essex County District Health Council; Ward, Carl-Seaway Valley District Health Council; Whynott, Reginald J.-Hamilton-Wentworth District Health Council; Williams, Lorene (Mrs.)-Kenora-Rainy River District Health Council; Wilson, Karlene (Mrs.)-Lanark, Leeds and Grenville District Health Council; Woodward, Dr. C. A.-Health Care Systems Research Review Committee.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

The following responses were tabled after the House adjourned on June 18.

ROMAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Sessional paper 48, re separate schools, extension of funding to; sessional paper 54, re separate schools, support for full funding of.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The Ministry of Education is pleased to acknowledge receipt of two petitions on the extension of funding to Roman Catholic separate school boards.

The one, sessional paper 54, lists five people who support the policy, and the other, sessional paper 48, lists four who ask that the government seek a constitutional referral and also carry out a full public debate prior to the implementation of the policy.

The ministry acknowledges that there are divergent views on this policy. The minister and ministry officials are currently in the process of discussing the draft legislation with associations and groups representing the educational community in Ontario.

Every effort is being made to ensure that the legislation, when introduced, will meet the requirements of the Human Rights Code and the Constitution.

FAMILY BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Sessional paper 49, re regulation 424/82, section 5(b) of the Family Benefits Act ("not living as a single person").

Hon. Mr. Runciman: The regulation in question has been incorrectly cited in the petition. It is properly referred to as clause 5(b) of regulation 318 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario.

The minister finds paragraph 1 of the petition to be in error. First, the ministry does not "harass" applicants or recipients of family benefits. The ministry has clear policy and procedural guidelines that ensure fair, unbiased and nondiscriminatory treatment of all recipients. If the petitioners have specific cases of alleged harassment, they should bring them to the attention of the area manager of the ministry, who will have them investigated. Second, the ministry's interpretation of clause 5(b) is not "arbitrary," but rather relies on judicial interpretation provided by the Ontario Court of Appeal.

The ministry finds paragraph 2 of the petition to be in error. First, reference to "the man in the house" implies that the regulation only applies to single mothers living with a man. The fact is that the regulation applies equally to single fathers living with a woman.

Second, the "willingness or ability of the second adult to support" is irrelevant to the determination of eligibility for family benefits. Family benefits provides assistance only to certain defined permanently unemployable persons, foster and handicapped children, single women aged 60 to 64 and single parents. Accordingly, when the ministry becomes aware that a second adult is in the home of a recipient, the ministry must determine the status of the second adult—e.g., boarder, renter, visitor—in order to determine ongoing eligibility for assistance as well as to determine the correct amount of the allowance.

The matter of parental and spousal obligations raised in paragraph 3 of the petition is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Attorney General under the Family Law Reform Act and is therefore outside this ministry's mandate.

The ministry disagrees with the position expressed in paragraph 4 of the petition. The intent of income maintenance legislation is quite different from the intent of the Children's Law Reform Act, the Family Law Reform Act and the Child Welfare Act. The intent of the Family Benefits Act, as well as the General Welfare Assistance Act, is to provide financial assistance on a categorical basis to persons in need. This assistance is provided from the very day eligibility is established. For single parents, this can mean the day the "spouse" moves out of the home. By responding to need on a timely basis,

the interests of children are served. In addition, the interests of children are recognized in the determination of the amount of the allowance.

Also, at least one child must be under the care of a single parent in order for that parent to quality for FBA at all. Thus, the wellbeing of children is a prime consideration of the ministry's income maintenance legislation.

With regard to the last paragraph of the petition, the ministry believes that a special "investigation and review" of its related policy in this matter is unnecessary. The ministry monitors compliance with its policy and procedural guidelines on an ongoing basis. As previously stated, these guidelines provide all recipients with "fair, unbiased and nondiscriminatory treatment in both determining eligibility for family benefits assistance and in reviewing cases which come before the ministry for assessment."

PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

Sessional paper 50, re pornographic literature and videotapes.

Hon. Mr. Runciman: It has been determined from an international perspective that film is the most powerful voice of the communication media.

In its continuing effort to stem the flow of pornography, the Ontario government recently amended the Theatres Act to provide for the approval and classification of commercially distributed videocassettes. Thus the same community standards used in the approval and classification of theatrical films will be applied to videos sold or rented through Ontario video shops. We therefore feel that pornography in its most powerful form is being regulated.

My ministry welcomes the comments of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (London and Middlesex County). I invite association members to submit their valuable contribution with respect to the classification of film to Mrs. Mary Brown, Director, Theatres Branch, 2075 Millwood Road, Toronto, Ontario, M4G 1X6.

APPENDIX B

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(125 members)

First Session, 33rd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Honourable J. B. Aird, OC, QC

Speaker: Hon. H. A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: R. G. Lewis, QC

Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)
Andrewes, P. W. (Lincoln PC)
Ashe, G. L. (Durham West PC)
Baetz, R. C. (Ottawa West PC)
Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
Bennett, C. F. (Ottawa South PC)
Bernier, L. (Kenora PC)
Bossy, M. L. (Chatham-Kent L)

Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)

Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)

Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)

Callahan, R. V. (Brampton L)

Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services (Oriole L)

Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)

Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education (Renfrew North L)

Cooke, D. R. (Kitchener L)

Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)

Cordiano, J. (Downsview L) Cousens, W. D. (York Centre PC) Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC)

Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing (Scarborough North L)

Davis, W. C. (Scarborough Centre PC)

Dean, G. H. (Wentworth PC)

Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)

Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L) Elgie, R. G. (York East PC)

Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)

Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L) Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC)

Ferraro, R. E. (Wellington South L)

Fish, S. A. (St. George PC)

Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines (Cochrane North L)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)

Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Scarborough East L) Gigantes, E. (Ottawa Centre NDP) Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC) Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC) Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)

Grandmaître, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Ottawa East L)

Gregory, M. E. C. (Mississauga East PC)

Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)

Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)

Guindon, L. B. (Cornwall PC)

Haggerty, R. (Erie L)

Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC)

Hayes, P. (Essex North NDP)

Henderson, D. J. (Humber L)

Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC)
Jackson, C. (Burlington South PC)

Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC) Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)

Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy (Niagara Falls L)

Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services (Kingston and the Islands L)

Knight, D. S. (Halton-Burlington L)

Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Wilson Heights L)

Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC)

Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP) Leluk, N. G. (York West PC)

Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt NDP)

Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)

Mancini, R. (Essex South L)

Marland, M. (Mississauga South PC)

Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP) McCaffrey, R. B. (Armourdale PC)

McCague, G. R. (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)

McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)

McFadden, D. J. (Eglinton PC)

McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)

McKessock, R. (Grey L)

McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC)

McNeil, R. K. (Elgin PC)

Miller, F. S. (Muskoka PC) Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton PC)

Morin, G. E., Deputy Chairman of Committee of the Whole House (Carleton East L)

Morin-Strom, K. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)

Munro, Hon. L. O., Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Hamilton Centre L)

Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)

Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)

O'Connor, T. P. (Oakville PC)

Offer, S. (Mississauga North L)

O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Quinte L)

Partington, P. (Brock PC)

Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)

Pierce, F. J. (Rainy River PC)

Poirier, J. (Prescott-Russell L)

Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

Polsinelli, C. (Yorkview L)

Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)

Pouliot, G. (Lake Nipigon NDP)

Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)

Ramsay, D. (Timiskaming NDP)

Reville, D. (Riverdale NDP) Revcraft, D. R. (Middlesex L)

Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Huron-Middlesex L)

Rowe, W. E. (Simcoe Centre PC)

Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)

Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio (Parkdale L)

Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)

Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General (St. David L)

Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)

Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)

Smith, D. W. (Lambton L)

Smith, E. J. (London South L)

Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development (York North L)

South, L. (Frontenac-Addington L)

Stephenson, B. M. (York Mills PC)

Sterling, N. W. (Carleton-Grenville PC)

Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)

Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)

Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)

Taylor, J. A. (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)

Timbrell, D. R. (Don Mills PC)

Treleaven, R. L., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committee of the Whole House (Oxford PC)

Turner, J. M. (Peterborough PC)

Van Horne, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio (London North L)

Villeneuve, N. (Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry PC)

Ward, C. C. (Wentworth North L)

Warner, D. W. (Scarborough-Ellesmere NDP)

Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)

Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour (Windsor-Sandwich L)

Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs

Nixon, Hon. R. F., Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Minister of Revenue

Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment

Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services

Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines

Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General

Riddell, Hon. J. K., Minister of Agriculture and Food

Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation

Kerrio, Hon. V. G., Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy

O'Neil, Hon. H. P., Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology

Sweeney, Hon. J., Minister of Community and Social Services

Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health

Wrye, Hon. W. M., Minister of Labour

Grandmaître, Hon. B. C., Minister of Municipal Affairs

Curling, Hon. A., Minister of Housing

Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communication

Keyes, Hon. K. A., Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services

Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations

Munro, Hon. L. O., Minister of Citizenship and Culture

Sorbara, Hon. G. S., Minister of Colleges and Universities and Minister of Skills Development Van Horne, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio

Ruprecht, Hon. T., Minister without Portfolio

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Cordiano, J., assistant to the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Downsview L)

Epp, H. A., assistant to the Treasurer (Waterloo

North L)

Ferraro, R. E., assistant to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wellington South L)

Haggerty, R., assistant to the Minister of

Government Services (Erie L)

Henderson, D. J., assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Humber L) Mancini, R., assistant to the Premier (Essex South L)

McGuigan, J. F., assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Energy

(Kent-Elgin L)

McKessock, R., assistant to the Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services

Miller, Mr. G. I., assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Haldimand-Norfolk L)

Offer, S., assistant to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mississauga North L)

Poirier, J., assistant to the Minister of the Environment (Prescott-Russell L)

Polsinelli, C., assistant to the Minister of Labour (Yorkview L)

Reycraft, D. R., assistant to the Minister of Education (Middlesex L)

Sargent, E. C., assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Grey-Bruce L)

Ward, C. C., assistant to the Minister of Health (Wentworth North L)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Social development: members, Messrs. Allen, D. S. Cooke, Davis, Henderson, Jackson, R. F. Johnston, Offer, Pope, Reycraft, D. W. Smith and Timbrell; clerk, L. Mellor.

Members' services: members, Messrs. J. M. Johnson, Lane, Laughren, Mackenzie, McKessock, G. I. Miller, Mitchell, Polsinelli and Rowe; clerk, D. Deller.

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

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SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

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Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)

Bradley, Hon. J. J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)

Brandt, A. S. (Sarnia PC)

Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)

Caplan, Hon. E., Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet and Minister of Government Services (Oriole L)

Conway, Hon. S. G., Minister of Education (Renfrew North L)

Eakins, Hon. J. F., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Victoria-Haliburton L)

Edighoffer, Hon. H. A., Speaker (Perth L)

Elgie, R. G. (York East PC)

Elston, Hon. M. J., Minister of Health (Huron-Bruce L)

Fontaine, Hon. R., Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines (Cochrane North L)

Fulton, Hon. E., Minister of Transportation and Communications (Scarborough East L)

Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)

Gregory, M. E. C. (Mississauga East PC)

Grier, R. A. (Lakeshore NDP)

Grossman, L. S. (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)

Haggerty, R. (Erie L)

Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC)

Kwinter, Hon. M., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Wilson Heights L)

Marland, M. (Mississauga South PC)

McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)

McKessock, R. (Grey L)

Miller, F. S. (Muskoka PC)

Peterson, Hon. D. R., Premier and President of the Council and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (London Centre L)

Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)

Pope, A. W. (Cochrane South PC)

Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)

Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)

Scott, Hon. I. G., Attorney General (St. David L)

Timbrell, D. R. (Don Mills PC)

Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)

Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L).

